

Netanyahu coalition wavering

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is losing his grip on key coalition partners who support the peace process and fear he is destroying it, according to reports Sunday. Leaders of the Shas religious party, which Mr. Netanyahu needs to maintain his Knesset majority, want Mr. Netanyahu to invite opposition leader Shimon Peres into his government, Channel 2 TV said. But Mr. Peres said the move was unlikely. Meanwhile, Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri — an elderly spiritual leader whose support was critical to Mr. Netanyahu's narrow May election victory — reportedly called for closing the tunnel which sparked the past days' deadly Israeli-Palestinian clashes. "It is inflaming the Arabs against us," Channel 2 quoted Rabbi Kadouri as saying of the new

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

King meets Arab ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received Arab ministers of social affairs taking part in a conference to debate a unified Arab draft on the status of Arab women designed to facilitate the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing last year. King Hussein voiced pride in Arab achievements for women and lauded their keen interest in enhancing inter-Arab cooperation. The King voiced hope that Arab women will be able to play their full role as equal partners in developing communities and countries and to contribute to the efforts being made to overcome the problems caused by poverty, underdevelopment and ignorance. The Arab ministers voiced appreciation to King Hussein for his concern and follow up on the conference's deliberations. They also praised the efforts made by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who officially opened the two-day conference on Saturday.

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Clinton to host Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian summit

Washington meeting seeks to salvage Mideast peace process after Israeli-Palestinian clashes

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton said on Sunday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat would visit Washington this week to try to end the recent Middle East violence.

Mr. Clinton, holding a brief news conference in the White House Rose Garden, said King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had also been invited, adding it was not clear if the Egyptian leader would be able to attend.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Mr. Arafat had not officially replied to the U.S. invitation, because he wanted Mr. Mubarak to attend the summit. "We have not accepted yet, because we do not know whether Mubarak is going," a PLO official said.

Mr. Clinton telephoned Mr. Netanyahu and said he hoped the summit in Washington would halt violence and advance peace moves, Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman said.

"During the 20-minute conversation, the prime minister thanked the president for his invitation to the Washington summit and expressed his appreciation for the president's attempts to help move the peace process forward," he said.

"The president said the results required of the summit in Washington are a stop to the violence and the early resumption of negotiations on outstanding issues," the spokesman

King leaves to U.S. today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein leaves today for Washington to attend a summit designed to save the Middle East peace process in the wake of bloody clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians in the West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King had received a phone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton inviting him to the meeting, expected to be held on Tuesday, and confirmed that the Monarch accepted the invitation.

The talks, which are expected to group Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, could continue on Wednesday, reports from Washington said.

Following Mr. Clinton's telephone call, the King contacted Mr. Arafat and Mr. Mubarak and exchanged views on coordinating and arriving at a unified position, Petra said.

By late Sunday, it was not clear whether Mr. Mubarak had accepted the U.S. invitation to the summit. Reports from the

Palestinian National Authority's base in the Gaza Strip indicated that Mr. Arafat was making his participation conditional on Mr. Mubarak's attendance.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher were also in touch with the Egyptian leader over the U.S. invitation to the summit, reports from Cairo said.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said Mr. Mubarak was reluctant to go until he knows what President Clinton aims to achieve from the summit and what will come out of it of substance.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif told state television that Mr. Mubarak's telephone conversation with President Clinton dealt with "the purpose of the invitation which he (Clinton) made for a five-way summit in Washington."

"All the calls (that Mr. Mubarak received) dealt with points of views on how to save the peace process and how to get out of the current crisis in a way which revives hope that the agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinian National Authority will be implemented," he

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said.

Mr. Netanyahu, he added, agreed with Mr. Clinton's comments and said that for Israel the aim of the summit would be to ensure the region calms down and peace talks are renewed between Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. Clinton also telephoned Mr. Arafat to invite him to the White House meeting.

The move to convene the summit came after bloody gunbattles between Israeli security forces and Palestinians following Israel's reopening of a controversial tunnel near Islamic

holy sites in Jerusalem.

Although the reopening of the tunnel kept Palestinian anger running high, Mr. Clinton's dramatic personal intervention was seen likely to calm passions on both sides and renew hopes for progress.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu initially refused to make concessions to bring about the summit, but Israel's Channel 2 TV said a tradeoff was shaping up.

Mr. Arafat would pledge to end the violence and stop objecting to the tunnel, while Mr. Netanyahu would agree to a timetable for future negotiations and a

date for Israel's pullout from the West Bank city of Hebron, the television report said.

A senior official in Mr. Arafat's office, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Mr. Arafat would travel with his advisers to Cairo early Monday and was expected to fly on from there to Washington.

The 500-metre tunnel is portrayed by Israel as a harmless archaeological excavation, but it runs alongside Muslim shrines and is seen by Palestinians as diminishing their claim

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Israelis reopen Jerusalem tunnel under tight security

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Defying world opinion, Israel reopened a tunnel near Muslim holy shrines on Sunday, just days after its completion triggered the worst gunbattles between Israelis and Palestinians since the 1967 Mideast war.

Palestinian teenagers hurled stones as the tunnel's gray exit door was opened, but Israeli riot police chased them down the Via Dolorosa — Jesus' route to crucifixion — and then ringed the exit to protect tourists emerging from below.

As the Gulf of animosity grew, President Bill Clinton announced that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had accepted his invitation to meet in Washington to try to rescue peace agreements many fear are already lost.

But as Mr. Clinton announced the summit, the two sides were still trading angry words.

Reopening the tunnel is a "declaration of war," said the secretary of the Palestinian cabinet, Ahmed Abdel Rahman. Mr. Netanyahu vowed Saturday night that the tunnel "will always be open."

A U.N. Security Council resolution late Saturday indirectly calls on Israel to close the tunnel. The vote was 14-0, with the United States abstaining.

The 500-metre passage runs along the Al Aqsa Mosque compound and the western wall Palestinians complain that it undermines their control over adjacent Muslim holy shrines and challenges their claim to east Jerusalem as their future capital. Israel says the tunnel is 250 metres from the nearest mosque. It has always insisted it will never share power with the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

A tourist group from New York City was the first to walk through the reopened tunnel. One visitor, who only gave his first name, Ira, said it reaffirmed Jewish claims to Jerusalem. "This is where Jews come from, this is where Jews belong," he said.

Palestinians watched in dismay. "I don't think there is a chance for peace," said Khaled Tufah, a souvenir store worker.

Israel completed the tunnel last week, but closed it Friday and Saturday, apparently hoping to restore calm.

Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet has instructed him not to "reward" Mr. Arafat for the violence and make no concessions, the Jerusalem Post daily said.

Mr. Netanyahu spokesman David Bar-Ilan said Israel may disarm Mr. Arafat's 30,000 Palestinian policemen if the violence worsens, and that it will insist on renegotiating the long-overdue troop pull-back from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Both the presence of armed Palestinian police and the Hebron redeployment are cornerstones of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreements.

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Palestinian policemen present arms as they stand to the side of the funeral procession of Mansour Shawamreh, 23, who died Sunday in a Ramallah hospital. The Palestinian youth, wrapped in a Palestinian flag and carried on the crowd's shoulders, was shot by Israeli troops in violent clashes on Thursday (Reuters photo)

King tells Kabariti government to press ahead with its programme

No change or reshuffle for some time to come
Parliament to be convened for regular session on Nov. 11

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has told the Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti that it should expect to remain in office, unchanged, for some time to come, informed sources said Sunday.

The King's assurance to the government came Saturday when he chaired a meeting of the Cabinet.

"You are at the beginning of the road (in as far as the government's programme is concerned)," the King said, according to one source. "You should press

ahead (with implementing this programme) in the realisation that there would be no reshuffle or change," the source quoted the King as saying.

The sources saw the King's assertion as an indication that the government will remain in office probably until next spring, when the ministers who have parliamentary aspirations or plan reelection bids have to quit in order to campaign. They said the Cabinet, which includes 22 deputies, is not likely to leave office before preparations start for the elections.

"Barring a major political

development that requires political change, it should be expected that this government will stay in office for at least few months," the source said.

The King's statement to the Cabinet, coupled with a public statement in Qatar two days earlier, that no change of Cabinet was in the offing came against the backdrop of continued demands by the opposition parties that Kabariti government resign or be sacked.

Tension between the government and the opposition developed to new heights after the government decid-

ed to lift subsidies on bread and fodder last month.

There are no signs that this tension is about to recede with both the government and the opposition raising their level of criticism in light of widespread expectations by the opposition that the government will make some political change.

Mr. Kabariti, who continues to demonstrate confidence, last week denied that there was a crisis within the government, questioning instead the credibility of the

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King assures ex-servicemen of attention on their needs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday told representatives of retired servicemen that along with the government he was giving due attention to their social and economic issues and needs, and asked that the retired officers set up a committee to discuss their needs with the government.

Praising the retired officers for their past efforts and expressing appreciation of their endeavours in defending the nation, the King said the officers continue to act as a shield protecting the nation and promised that everything

possible would be done to help them improve their living conditions.

He said the Armed Forces constitute a school for training men in how to serve with honour to protect Jordan and the Arab Nation. "We have not been defending ourselves but rather the Arab Nation and striving to achieve justice and good for all Arabs," he said.

"There are a lot of matters that need to be discussed and problems to be addressed as you have your own views and aspirations but all your views are held with appreciation and

respect," King Hussein said.

"There is need for discussions of our affairs and conditions from time to time to see how to deal with them as best as possible and for this reason I hope to be able to hold more meetings with you to secure the most appropriate mechanism to achieve your aspirations," he said.

Referring to servicemen's ideas on projects, the King noted that some of the retired servicemen had floated the idea of creating a society for old veterans. "I have no objection to that but this society should not

serve as substitute for the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) though I wish to say that I have not been satisfied with its performance," the King said.

"I would like to examine how we can improve the organisation's performance in a bid to create jobs for our able bodied servicemen in their different fields," he added.

"This question requires thorough discussion and we might be facing a financial problem, but we are

(Continued on page 7)

League welcomes Security Council call for resumption of peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League on Sunday welcomed the U.N. Security Council resolution passed in reaction to clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops.

A spokesman for the Cairo-based league called on hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to immediately close the controversial tunnel near the Al Aqsa Mosque site.

Fifty-five Palestinians and 14 Israeli soldiers have died in clashes since Israel opened a new entrance to the tunnel.

"The U.N. Security Council resolution affirms that world opinion stands against Israel's inhuman practices towards the Palestinian people and Islamic and Christian holy sites," Arab League spokesman Talaat Hamed told Reuters.

The United States was the lone abstention on Saturday when the 14 other members of the Security Council called for ensuring the safety of Palestinian civilians and for the immediate resumption of the peace talks.

"The statements of the delegations to the Security Council clearly stated that the practices of Mr. Netanyahu's government are turning the clock back and are placing the Middle East on the edge of the abyss," Mr. Hamed said.

Oil and gas-rich Qatar, which has moved faster than any other Gulf state to forge economic ties with Israel, is considering putting further normalisation with the Jewish state on hold, a Qatari official said.

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This necessitates immediate and serious movement by the international community to make Israel implement what has been decided by international law and what it agreed upon with the parties in the peace process.

"Events require that redeployment from Hebron must take place quickly and the tunnel must be closed as a sign of good faith and as a start towards resuming peace talks," he added.

Mr. Hamed said the United States abstained from the vote because "it is on the verge of an election battle in which the Jewish lobby plays an effective role."

Oil and gas-rich Qatar, which has moved faster than any other Gulf state to forge economic ties with Israel, is considering putting further normalisation with the Jewish state on hold, a Qatari official said.

"It is embarrassing for us to pursue normalisation with Israel unless it resumes peace negotiations with its Arab neighbours which are the basis of our contacts with it," said the official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Qatar and Oman are the only two states in the region that have allowed Israel to set up trade missions. Oman has also opened a commercial office

in Tel Aviv.

But both Gulf states have stopped short of establishing full diplomatic relations pending the resolution of all Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Qatar on Friday cancelled a meeting between its foreign minister and his Israeli counterpart at the United Nations in protest at the violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

The first economic casualty of Qatar's political concerns could be a planned mission by Qatari businessmen to Israel next month.

An 18-member group of private Qatari merchants — which was to tour Israel in the third week of October to explore joint ventures in agriculture, power, mineral water and petrochemicals "may have to delay indefinitely or call off their mission," a member of the group said.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov arrived in Morocco on Sunday for a 48-hour official visit and said Israel should put an end to actions against Palestinians and respect the feelings of Muslims.

"I came to Morocco to confer with Moroccan officials and exchange points of view on issues related to the dangerous evolution of events in the Middle East and Afghanistan," Mr. Primakov told reporters on arrival at Rabat airport.

Churches decry Israeli measures

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Christian organisations have deplored the recent flare-up of violence in the occupied territories, including Arab East Jerusalem, and demanded immediate Israeli moves to lift the logjam in the peace process.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) said "it views with alarm and great dismay the confrontations" in Arab East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"The deep frustrations of the Palestinian people in the face of new occupations of land, confiscation of property, destruction of homes, restrictions on movement and economic disaster is understandable," said the WCC in a statement, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times.

"So is the long-standing fear of the Israelis for their security."

"However, this new violence, whose victims have been overwhelmingly unarmed civilian Palestinians, is unacceptable and poses grave dangers to the region as a whole," said the Geneva-based WCC.

The WCC, a fellow of 330 churches in more than 100 countries representing virtually all Christian traditions except the Roman Catholic Church, called on Israel to "withdraw immediately all its armed forces from the Palestinian autonomous territory."

The Israeli military presence there "is in violation of the Oslo accords," and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which has the responsibility under the accords for maintaining law and order in the territory, "must be free to do so with a minimum of force and respect for its people," the WCC said.

"There are those who believe the Middle East peace process... is dead," it noted, adding that the WCC does not "accept this judgement."

"But for the peace process to be revived both sides must hold firmly to the obligations they have undertaken and to the time-table established for implementing the terms of their agreement," it said. In an implicit reference to Israel's stalling over its agreed withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

The WCC called on governments "in and beyond the region" to assume their "full responsibilities now, before the hope of peace and the promise of justice in the Middle East is damaged beyond repair."

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East meanwhile issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and demanding an end to Israel's "massacres" of the Palestinians.

"The Arab Christians of Palestine raise their voices

demanding that the world community put an end to Israel's massacres of people in the land of peace," said the statement. It called on "the Christian and Muslim worlds to take whatever measures necessary to end the blood-bath and reject Jewish measures which are detrimental to the national aspirations of the Christian and Muslim communities in Jerusalem and Palestine."

The statement, which was signed by Bishop Samir Kafila, head of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, called for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands.

Edmond Browning, leader of a prominent American Christian organisation, also issued a statement demanding an immediate resumption of the peace process.

"This is a time when both sides must demonstrate their resolve to end the current stalemate," said Bishop Browning. Unless there is a "dramatic movement on a swift return to the peace process the leadership of the two sides could control of events," he warned.

"Recent actions by Israel have inflamed passions not seen since the intifada — the 1987-93 Palestinian revolt against the Israeli occupation," said the bishop. He referred to Israel's lifting of a freeze on settlement expansion in the occupied territories and the Jewish state's demand for the closure of Palestinian offices in Jerusalem and continued refusal to withdraw from Hebron.

"Confiscation and demolition" of Arab land and property in and around Jerusalem also continue, he noted, adding that "the most recent action is the opening of a new gate in a long-disputed tunnel, next to the Arab Quarter of the Old City which precipitated the present outbreak of violence."

Bishop Browning called for an immediate launching of negotiations over the future of Jerusalem. "There will be no peace and no justice unless the aspirations of Jews, Muslims and Christians are respected in the final negotiations," he said. "Unilateral claims to Jerusalem are unacceptable and are a prescription for a long and tragic conflict."

The bishop called on the U.S. to "assure both parties that the future of Jerusalem must be negotiated between the two sides" and urged Israel to end its "tactics of creating facts on the ground" and to reverse its decision to reopen the entrance to the tunnel.

The main Iranian opposition group, Mujahideen-e-Khalq, also criticised the Israeli actions in Jerusalem and said they served the Iranian regime's efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process.



Afghan cyclists pass through Shah Do-Shamshir Wali Street in Kabul on Friday as normalcy returned to the Afghan capital after the Taliban militia took control of the city (Reuters photo)

Asian nations urge peace in wartorn Afghanistan

HONG KONG (R) — Asian countries and commentators called on Sunday for an end to fighting in Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul, but most nations stopped short of immediately recognising the new Taliban administration.

The Taliban militia took control of the Afghan capital on Friday after meeting little resistance when President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his forces fled to the north.

The militia hanged former President Najibullah, who led a Moscow-backed government until April 16, 1992 when he was ousted by Mujahideen, soon after capturing Kabul.

China voiced concern about the fighting but did not respond directly to the Taliban's appeal for international recognition. "China and Afghanistan are close neighbours," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

China expresses its concern about the situation of fighting in Afghanistan. "China hopes all sides in the Afghan fighting will place the interests of the state and the people above everything and stop their armed conflict and realise national reconciliation through peaceful negotiation," it said.

Pakistan, which has repeatedly denied accusations of backing the Taliban, appeared to signal its recognition of the new government by sending a delegation to Kabul on Friday.

"In keeping with its policy, the government of Pakistan will send immediately a delegation to establish contact with the new government in Kabul and maintain its contact with the Taliban shura (council) in the southern town of Kandahar," a Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement said.

Nonetheless, Pakistani newspapers criticised the Taliban militia's hanging of former President Najibullah

and asked whether their victory could bring a lasting peace after more than four years of factional fighting.

"Viewed in the backdrop of a complex tussle for power, it seems the fate of the country still hangs in the balance," Peshawar-based English-language daily the Frontier Post said.

Islamabad-based daily the News said the killing of Najibullah and his men was politically costly. "It sends all the wrong messages to the world, whose support they are now seeking to legitimise their rule."

Pakistan and Indian newspapers warned their respective countries should beware of instability spreading beyond Afghanistan's borders as well as the strict fundamentalist nature of the Taliban.

"The Taliban are Sunni fundamentalists in the true sense of the term, and espouse the more unforgiving and intolerant aspects of their religion. They will turn Afghanistan into a huge religious laboratory," said India's Pioneer daily.

Bangladesh urged the people of Afghanistan to resolve their problems themselves without allowing outside interference. "The people of Afghanistan will be able to resolve their differences through peaceful negotiation without outside interference," a statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman published in newspapers on Sunday said.

In Japan, a Foreign Ministry statement called for the start of peace talks as swiftly as possible.

"Japan has over a long time made exhaustive efforts to achieve a settlement of the Afghan situation and hopes that all parties to the latest conflict refrain from fighting and return to the table for peaceful dialogue as soon as possible," Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Slain Murtaza's children fly to Syria for safety

KARACHI (R) — Two children of Murtaza Bhutto, the slain brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, have been flown to Syria amid concerns for their safety, officials said on Sunday.

The children of Mir Murtaza Bhutto have been sent to Damascus and their safety has been guaranteed by Syrian president Hafez Al Assad. Rao Rasheed secretary-general of Murtaza's breakaway faction of the ruling Pakistan People's Party known as PPP (Shaheed Bhutto), told reporters in Karachi.

Murtaza, 42, died in a shoot-out between police and his supporters on Sept. 20. Seven of his bodyguards also died in the shooting.

Murtaza's supporters have accused police of ambushing and killing him and his seven bodyguards. Police say they fired in self-defence after Murtaza's bodyguards started shooting.

"We cannot take any risk," Rasheed, a former inspector general of police of the Punjab province,

said accusing Karachi police and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for conspiring to kill Murtaza and posing a threat to Murtaza's family.

Mr. Rasheed said Ghinwa Bhutto, widow of Murtaza, has yet to announce her decision about her future plans. Murtaza left Fatima, 14, from his first Afghan wife and Zulfikar Jr. 4, from his second wife, Ghinwa.

The central coordination committee of Murtaza's faction has asked Ghinwa to lead the party. Ghinwa says she will announce her decision after the end of a 40-day mourning.

Mr. Rasheed addressing reporters at Murtaza's residence, said PPP-Shaheed Bhutto had no faith in the government and would soon approach President Farooq Leghari, chief of the army staff Jehangir Karamat and Chief Justice of Pakistan Sajjad Ali Shah for their help to investigate Murtaza's murder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope urges end to Mideast bloodshed

CASTELGANDOLFO, Italy (R) — Pope John Paul II said on Sunday he prayed for peace in the Middle East after days of clashes and urged Israelis and Palestinians to avoid provoking fresh violence. "In this difficult time, I would urge the Israeli and Palestinian people and their leaders to make a courageous effort not to succumb to the hope for peace and to avoid further provocation of injustices and consequent new violent acts," the pontiff said in his weekly angelus address. "I am of believers — Jews, Christians and Muslims — every means of favouring understanding and trust in favour of peace in a land that God designates as 'holy'," the pontiff said, speaking to the faithful from his summer residence south of Rome. "For this we pray."

Turkish Kurd inmates set themselves alight

ANKARA (R) — Three Kurdish prisoners were in hospital on Sunday after setting themselves on fire in protest at the deaths of 11 fellow Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) inmates in a jail in southeast Turkey, human rights official said. "It was a protest against the recent attacks in Diyarbakir jail," a lawyer at the Human Rights Association told Reuters. He said the three, two men and a woman, poured paint thinner on their bodies and set themselves on fire on Friday night in a cell at Istanbul's Bayrampasa prison. Two of them were in a serious condition, the lawyer said. Eleven PKK inmates died and several were wounded in a riot last week over prison conditions at Diyarbakir high security jail. More than 20,000 people have been killed since 1984 in clashes between government forces and the PKK, fighting for autonomy or independence.

4 held in Bahrain for arson attack

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has arrested four people in connection with an arson attack in Manama, newspapers on Sunday quoted an Interior Ministry official as saying. The official said confessions by the four had been recorded before an investigating judge and they would soon be tried before the state security court. Three people were injured, one seriously, when the group torched a store on Sept. 9. "Security forces will continue to track anyone trying to undermine security or damage properties and will continue to take precautionary steps to safeguard security of the country," the official said. Last week, Bahrain said it had arrested four people accused of carrying out an arson attack on two stores in a village in which an Indian worker was killed. Around 27 people have been killed, including three policemen and seven Bangladeshis, since anti-government protests broke out in December 1994 by members of the Shi'ite Muslim community seeking political and economic reforms.

Russian boat sinks off Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Seven crew members of a Russian-flagged passenger boat were missing on Sunday after the vessel sank in a storm off Turkey's Black Sea coast, Anatolian news agency said. It said four people on the Moldavia, including a Russian crew member and a Turkish customs officer, had been rescued after it hit rocks off the province of Bartin and went down on Saturday night. The missing crew members were all Turks, it said. The boat was travelling from the eastern coastal city of Trabzon to Istanbul for repairs. A Turkish company had been renovating the Moldavia to turn it into a 300-bed floating hotel with a cinema. It had not been to sea for four years, Anatolian said.

Missing Israeli airman still alive — magazine

BONN (R) — Missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, shot down over Lebanon 10 years ago, is still alive and being held by militants as a bargaining chip in the Middle East conflict, the German weekly focus reported at the weekend.

The magazine sourced the report, issued ahead of publication on Monday's edition, to a dossier allegedly passed to Western security services by Israel's Mossad intelligence service. It said Israel believed Arad had been held for a long time in the Lebanese village of Nabi Sheet in the home of Hussein Mousavi, leader of the Lebanese Islamic Amal movement.

According to the report, the Iranian-

backed Hizbollah (Party of God) telephoned a French news agency last April to say Arad was going to be executed in retaliation for Israeli air strikes against south Lebanon.

But Abdul Saheb Mousavi, commander of the Iranian Pasdaran Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon, allegedly vetoed the execution because Arad was such a valuable bargaining chip.

Two weeks later, Arad was moved to an unknown location, the report said. Last July top German security official Bernd Schmidbauer said, after brokering an exchange of soldiers' remains and prisoners between Israel and Lebanon, that Arad appeared to have been alive at least until 1990, but

his fate after that was unclear.

After the exchange, Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said Arad was captured but later escaped, and that he did not know if the navigator was now alive or dead.

He said Hizbollah, which is fighting to oust Israeli forces from south Lebanon, was prepared to seek information on Arad and pass it on via Mr. Schmidbauer in exchange for the release of prisoners and detainees.

Hizbollah wants to secure the release of all prisoners it says are held in Israel by its South Lebanon Army (SLA) allies at Khiam jail in South Lebanon.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05Adventure On The Rainbow Pond
15:30UEFA Football Match
17:00News Flash
17:02Sciences Cartoon
17:15La Vie Devant Moi
17:30Game Show — Pyramid
18:00Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Par Two
19:00Le Journal
19:15Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30News Headlines
19:35The Hypnotic World of Paul Mc Kenna
20:00Doc. — Deep Probe Expectations
21:10The Lazarus Man
22:00News in English
22:25The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10Bodies of Evidence

PRAYER TIMES

04:07Fajr
05:24(Sunrise) Duha
11:26Dhuhr
14:50Asr
17:28Maghreb
18:45Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swefeh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise becoming above average by 2-4 degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be dusty, winds northerly active.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman.....17/32

Aqaba.....22/38

Deserts.....16/34

Jordan Valley.....21/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 31, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Yousef Rashid.....896301

Dr. Khalil Abdo.....732920

Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhah.....758848

Dr. Walid Al Masri.....675485

Fordons pharmacy.....637336

Al Asema pharmacy.....637055

Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672

Al Salam pharmacy.....773111

Yacoub pharmacy.....649495

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Nairoukh pharmacy.....847632

Najib pharmacy.....250080

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ba'ammeh.....250080

Dr. Walid Halaseh.....982799

Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Rescue Police.....192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade.....617101

Blood Bank.....775121

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896390

Public Security Dept.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800

Price Complaints.....661176

Water & Sewage Complaints.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121

Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Jordan Television.....773111

Radio Jordan.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6

Akileh Maternity.....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362

Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3

Al-Bashir.....775111/26

Army, Marka.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital.....602240/50

Amal Hospital.....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital.....(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital.....(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital.....(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital.....(03)3131

AQABA:

Princess Basma Hospital.....(03)3131

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00Dhaka (add) (RJ)

07:15Sanaa (RJ)

08:00Damascus (RJ)

08:30Jeddah (RJ)

09:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:20Beirut (RJ)

09:30New Delhi (RJ)

14:00London (RJ)

16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

21:15 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

22:25Casablanca (RJ)

03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

Khartoum (SD)



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday meets with visiting Bahraini Minister of Labour Abdul Ghani Shuleh to discuss vocational training programmes and other assorted issues (Petra photo)

Bahraini minister seeks expertise in labour related issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and visiting Bahraini Minister of Labour Abdul Ghani Shuleh Sunday discussed Jordanian preparations to conduct human resources training courses for Bahraini officials.

Minister Shuleh told reporters that the two sides agreed that a Bahraini delegation would come to Amman to examine vocational training programmes

which they might apply in Bahrain.

During his several-day visit, Mr. Shuleh met with Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh and toured the Vocational Training Corporation Centres. He said cooperation in such training programmes would begin in the next few weeks.

Mr. Shuleh also said that Bahrain, along with other

Gulf countries, was restructuring the economy and will require trained and qualified human resources. The Gulf has allocated \$2.5 billion to train such workers.

The minister stated that this push for vocational training is directed at alleviating unemployment which affects a purported 1.4 per cent of the population of Bahrain.

RJ complains tourist 'seat factor' down

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has joined the country's hoteliers in the chorus of complaints about the declining trend in the tourism industry.

According to RJ Vice President for Commercial Affairs Majdi Sabri, Jordan's national carrier registered around 10,000 cancellations in the last couple of months, while hoteliers throughout the Kingdom complain of an average drop of nearly 50 per cent in occupancy rate in the first eight months of this year.

Though it would be "premature" to quantify the exact loss in profits resulting from this decrease in the number of passengers, Dr. Sabri told the Jordan Times that RJ received more than 2,300 cancellations from Frankfurt, nearly 4,000 cancellations from Rome and 900 from Paris.

Together with Europeans, U.S. tourists were among the first to desert Middle Eastern destinations and tourist sites at the initial signs of new political instability in the West Bank and the Gulf. "Since last May's election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the number of passengers from the U.S.

dropped by 50 per cent," Dr. Sabri said.

At last week's Travel Market 1996 fair, Minister of Tourism Saleh Irsheidat told reporters that Jordan's tourism industry is undergoing substantial and constant growth.

But on Sunday, the minister told participants in a conference on the tourism industry that "tourism in Jordan has been declining in the past six months and there are no signs pointing to improvement for the rest of the year, largely due to political developments in the Middle East."

Meanwhile, the hotel business is indeed suffering from low occupancy.

General Manager of the Jordan Hotels Association (JHA) Fakhri Tawal stressed that the drop in profits is largely due to the drop in the number of tourists coming from Europe and the U.S.

According to Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities statistics, the number of tourists from America went down from 50,000 in the first five months of 1995 to 38,400 in the same period of 1996, with a decrease of 23 per cent.

The ministry's statistics also show that the number of European tourists also dropped, from 127,000 in the first five months of

1995 to 125,000 in the first five months of 1996.

The increase in the number of tourists coming from Israel, Gulf and other states does not make up for the loss of the highly profitable European and U.S. markets, hoteliers said.

Though tourists from Israel increased by 12 per cent, going from 44,000 in the first five months of 1995 to nearly 50,000 in the first five months of 1996, many hoteliers complain that Israelis do not stay overnight in the Kingdom and, therefore, do not constitute a source of income for the tourism industry.

"Many Israeli travel agents offer their customers a one-day free trip to Petra if they visit and stay in Eilat," Mr. Tawal told the Jordan Times.

If established hotels can only partially fill their rooms, then new ones are certainly struggling.

According to General Manager Nael Kawar of the four-star Petra Forum, which opened in 1983, the hotel registered a reduction of 60 per cent in the number of European guests this year.

General Manager Robert Firz is sailing through even rougher waters, as his brand new five-star Movenpick in Petra has logged an occupancy rate of only 12 per

cent since it first opened its doors last April.

But JHA's Mr. Tawal sees the dilemma as being twofold.

Besides the drop in tourism to the country, he said, "Simply, there are just too many rooms compared to the international market's demand."

He said that only in the past two years, six new five and four-star hotels have opened in Petra alone, with a total of more than 700 rooms (Grand View Hotel, with 150 rooms, Movenpick, with more than 120 rooms, Petra Plaza, with around 100 rooms, Taybet Zaman, with 97 chalets and bungalows, King's Way Inn, with more than 80 rooms, and, finally, Nabataean Castle, with more than 150 rooms).

Notwithstanding the present difficulties, investors seem not to have lost hope about the hotel business. In fact, 15 projects for new hotels have so far been deposited at the JHA.

The latest Jordan Hotels Directory, published by the JHA, reported that some of these projects include the Grand Hyatt, Sheraton, Hilton, Holiday Inn and Four Points in Amman, two new hotels in Aqaba, (Aqaba Castle and Al Sbweiky), one new hotel in Karak, (Shahrazad), Salt,

(Rawaby Zay), Shuneh, (Al Salam Palace) and Ajloun, (Naser).

"It is a difficult period, but things are going to change," said Mohammed Jaber, member of the board of Dawliyah Company, which is currently involved in the construction of a JD30 million Sheraton and a JD22 million Hilton in Amman.

"We believe that, sooner or later, the peace process will bear its fruits and the supply will create its own demand," Dr. Jaber said in a recent interview with the Jordan Times.

"Many people blame the political instability (for the actual crisis in the tourism sector), and fault last April's Israeli attacks in South Lebanon, the recent events in the Gulf or this week's clashes in the West Bank," Mr. Tawal told the Jordan Times, "but the reality is that there was a miscalculation of the positive effects of the peace process on the tourism sector."

"T e who are now in building new hotels, believed what they were told by the politicians," he added.

Samir Sawalha, veteran hotelier and general manager of the Regency Palace in Amman, could only say "God help them."

Cerebral Palsy Foundation to launch annual fund-raising campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) Sunday announced its programme for the 1996 nation-wide campaign to raise funds and help finance operations in its six cerebral palsy treatment centres in Jordan.

Foundation President Ekhrit Bilbeisi, in a press conference, stated that hundreds of students from Jordanian universities, community colleges and public schools will launch the campaign on Thursday Oct. 3, touring the Kingdom to collect contributions.

The organisation will also hold a fund-raising dinner.

Mr. Bilbeisi explained that the annual function is aimed at spreading public awareness about cerebral palsy and how family members might support those who suffer from it.

Cerebral Palsy is a childhood illness stemming from brain injury or faulty development in the formative years.

According to the CPF, the illness can manifest during pregnancy, delivery or post-natally, especially during the first month.

The foundation currently runs centres in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba, Salt and Karak which have offered treatment or assistance to a combined 9,342 children with cerebral palsy since its foundation in 1977. Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Officials say the foundation's goal is to reduce the incidence of cerebral palsy in Jordan from five to one [per 1000 births] by improving maternal health and paediatrics as well as ensuring adequate treatment for safe pregnancies and deliveries.

Early detection and treatment prevent disabilities from severely manifesting, they said.

A proper programme begins with a thorough infantile medical examination capable of detecting signs of developmental retardation, followed by brain scans, various other tests, if warranted, and finally by rehabilitation services which might include physiotherapy, supportive therapy and the provision of aid and equipment to the affected children for use at home, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Children affected with cerebral palsy have been assisted through the foundation and have gone on to pass the Tawjihi examination, he said.

He also thanked the Jordanian organisations which have been providing financial assistance to the foundation.

Jordan to send medical aid to PNA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Aref Bataineh Sunday telephoned his Palestinian counterpart Riad Zaanoun to inquire as to what medical aid the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) might require to help victims of the recent violence between Palestinians and the Israeli authorities.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that a list of medical equipment and medicines would be drawn up and that Jordan would expedite their delivery as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Arab ministers of social development, who concluded a meeting in Amman Sunday, expressed their countries' "absolute support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people who are struggling to regain their national rights and confront the Israeli illegal measures in Jerusalem, Hebron and the other parts of the Palestinian lands."

In a statement the ministers reaffirmed their support for the recent Arab League declaration "which strongly denounced this

Israeli aggression" and demanded that Arab countries take meaningful steps at higher levels to deal with the situation.

The statement praised the Palestinian people, particularly Palestinian women, who, the statement said, are living in very trying conditions under Israeli occupation.

Also Sunday, the council of presidents of 12 professional unions in Amman issued a statement condemning Israel's attacks on worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque and called on the international community to help discourage further acts of aggression by Israel as well as the desecration of the holy places.

"The council has been following with deep pride the acts of heroism on the part of the Palestinian Arab people in the face of Israel's onslaught and crimes against the Arab people and the holy places in Jerusalem," said the statement.

Denouncing Israel's ongoing attempts to encroach upon Arab rights and endanger Aqsa Mosque and its surround-

ings and attempts at changing the character and identity of the Arab city (of Jerusalem), the council said it "draws the world community's attention to the dangers inherent in such acts and appeals to the Arab and Islamic countries as well as the U.N. Security Council, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conferences, the Organisation of African Unity and the non-aligned nations to help stop Israel's practices which undermine security and stability in the region."

"Now that Israel has burned all the bridges extended to it by Arab optimism who believe in a 'genuine and just peace' and disregarded all feelings by those who have looked forward to peaceful co-existence between the Arabs and Israelis, the council calls on the Arab countries to return to the pan-Arab strategy option which regards Israel as an alien intruder in the Arab World to be removed," said the statement.

It continued: "The council also calls on Arabs to realise that the United

States remains a staunch supporter of Israel's aggression on the Arab nation and should reconsider their attitude towards the Jewish state and adopt a collective strategy to halt U.S.-Israeli hegemony on the Arab nation which can come about through the unity of Bilad al Shaam (Greater Syria) and an Iraqi-Arab unity which would guarantee the dignity and survival of the Arab nation."

The Jerusalem Day Committee in Amman, meanwhile, announced that it is organising a special seminar on Arab rights in Jerusalem on Saturday with the participation of leading academicians and researchers from the various Arab and world universities.

The four-day seminar will tackle the demographic changes in Jerusalem over the ages, the right of the Arab people's return to their homeland in Palestine, Zionist infringements on Arab rights and Israel's current measures in the city, according to the committee.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry to hire only Jordanian nurses

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh Sunday said the ministry plans to replace non-Jordanian nursing staff with Jordanians, adding that it will not issue any permits for non-Jordanian nurses as of the beginning of next year. Dr. Shakhaneh was speaking during a meeting with the president and members of the Jordan Nursing Association (JNA). He and the JNA members discussed means of upgrading nursing skills by incorporating practical disciplines in the curricula of nursing schools.

Environmentalists plan awareness day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Environment Society (JES) in cooperation with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) today launches a one-day awareness campaign in Dajania village in Mafrqa Governorate. The programme includes an environmental exhibition, video shows, environmental competitions and practical applications on solar disinfection of drinking water, and transforming of organic waste into fertilisers. On Wednesday JES will also hold a one-day symposium at the Regency Palace Hotel on development and environmental implications. Participants will discuss findings of a comprehensive field study on development projects.

Conference ends with approval of Arab women's document

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab ministers and officials from 18 countries Sunday officially endorsed a document on the status of Arab women and called for its actual implementation.

The main topics reviewed by participants during the two-day conference, included poverty reduction and increasing high-level participation among Arab women.

"Today we announce the endorsement of this historic document and hope that proper mechanisms be adopted for its implementation," Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous said.

In his closing speech, attended by HRH Princess Basma, Mr. Abu Jamous said "this document should

inform the world that Arab women have a distinguished status in our religion and culture."

Participants called for fighting poverty by providing job opportunities for Arab women, establishing entrepreneurial projects for those who are indigent and establishing social support networks.

The officials also called for strategies to include women in high-level decision making.

They requested re-examination of women-related legislation while amending legal stipulations to enable Arab women to effectively participate in social development.

Suggestions included the implementation of a media strategy in addition to an educational and awareness campaign to highlight women's status, the docu-

ment said. Moreover, it called for supporting women through education, training, rehabilitation and illiteracy eradication.

At the end of the meeting, the ministers resolved to submit the document to the General Secretariat of the Arab League for referral to the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs pursuant to examination.

The meeting in Amman was held to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the 1994 World Conference on Women, held in Beijing.

The countries participating in the conference included the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Yemen and Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * "The Fifth One-Dimension Exhibition" by several artists at Ad'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (Tel. 862105), until Oct. 16.
- * One-day exhibition of children's drawings At the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Works by Mohammad Al Jalous at Baladina Art Gallery, entitled "Pathetic" at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 3.
- * Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.
- * "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tamimari), photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by content

FILM

- * "L'Affaire Dreyfus" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- * "The History of Mughal Art — Architecture, Miniatures, and Jewelry" by Nelly Lama at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh at 7:00 p.m.
- * "Human Excellence and Its Relationship With Individuals and Society" by Hareth Abdel Hameed Hassan at Abdul Hameed Shomani Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

porary Arab artists and mosaic exhibition) until Oct. 8.

Military prosecutors ask for full convictions in subversion case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Military prosecutors Sunday presented their closing arguments against two men accused of subversion.

Salem Abdullah Jaradat and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, are charged in the State Security Court with plotting to carry out extremist attacks, and with manufacturing and possessing illegal arms and hand-made explosives with illicit intent.

Jaradat and Qassem also are standing trial for the attempted murder of a French diplomat on Feb. 24, 1995. This trial is being adjudicated at the Criminal Court.

State Prosecutor Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat, in his 10-page closing argument, asked for the defendants' conviction on all charges.

According to the prosecutor charge sheet, police seized a bag of explosives during the arrest of Jaradat

and Qassem following the shooting incident involving the French envoy and his wife in Wadi Mujib.

In his closing argument, Lt. Col. Obeidat presented his evidence which included witnesses' police present at the scene of the shooting) testimonies, who said, under oath, they saw the first defendant throw a Molotov cocktail towards the French couple's car. The home-made bomb did not explode, police said.

Defence attorneys Hikmat Rawashdeh and Saleh Armouti asked the court to allow them time to present their closing arguments in the case.

The military tribunal, presided over by Judge Youssef Faouri and Judges Aref Siyouf and Salem Saoudi, agreed and set Oct. 16 to hear their arguments. Closing arguments in the case against Jaradat and Qassem being tried at the Criminal Court are expected to be heard today.

Police report 4 suicides in last two weeks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police Sunday reported two suicides, bringing the number of persons to kill themselves in the last two weeks to four.

In the first incident, a 23-year-old man in the Nazal Suburb of Amman committed suicide by hanging himself with a white dishdash (traditional Arab robe) in a building owned by his father.

According to the report, the deceased, identified in the report only as T. A., was found hanging from the third floor stairwell.

The father of the victim told police that his son had suffered from mental disturbances. Preliminary forensic examinations indicated no traces of violent struggle, while pathologists determined it was a suicide from the blood sediment. In the second incident, in Zarqa, police said a 21-year old man shot and

killed himself in a church courtyard.

The report said that the victim, Firas Salim, went to church and sat with friends for a while then went outside to smoke a cigarette.

Shortly afterwards, he called his friends and asked them to pray for his soul, according to a close friend of the deceased. He told police that he heard a gunshot, and "when we went to check we saw Firas lying on the floor with a pistol in his hand."

The family of the victim informed the authorities that their son was in debt, and that "they believe he went to church to bid his friends farewell."

Police said they were investigating both incidents.

On Friday in Irbid, a 45-year-old man committed suicide by swallowing poison, and last week a 40-year-old jeweller killed himself by ingesting cyanide.

Chances of smooth Hong Kong 1997 transition improve

HONG KONG (R) — Chances of a smooth transition to Chinese rule next year improved dramatically in the past week as China and Britain made a breakthrough on Hong Kong's handover and more candidates emerged for its post-1997 leadership.

A long saga of bickering ended Friday as China and Britain agreed to a joint, "dignified" handover ceremony when London hands its last major colony back to Beijing's control, at midnight on June 30, 1997, after over 150 years of British rule.

The agreement paved the way for a lavish ceremony attended by up to 4,000 dignitaries from all over the world.

The apparently amiable settlement snuffed out speculation on whether the two countries, which had been arguing on handover details, might be forced into the awkward situation of holding separate ceremonies.

Interest in who runs Hong Kong after 1997 has also been growing. Retired Judge Arthur Garcia and Wharf (Holdings) Ltd. Chairman Peter Woo both indicated last week they would run for the post-handover leadership.

Hong Kong, promised a high degree of autonomy for the next 50 years under a "one country, two systems" formula, would be led by a chief executive, chosen in the next two months by a 400-member body now being formed under China's supervision.

The entry of Mr. Garcia and Mr. Woo brings to five the number of well-known candidates for Hong Kong's top job.

Sir Ti Liang Yang, who resigned as chief justice this month, lawyer Lo Tak-Shing and shipping tycoon Tung Chee-Hwa, tipped as China's favourite, have also declared interest in the job. Many in Hong Kong suspect the selection process

may be undemocratic if China calls the shots behind the scenes, and produce a winner who is not the choice of Hong Kong people. The multiplicity of contenders is widely seen as a positive turn.

"As a crucial first test of the whole untried policy of 'Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong,' the Communist authorities are keen not to leave fingerprints on the selection process," wrote Chris Yeung, political editor of the Sunday Morning Post.

"Faced with these constraints, it is now more likely Beijing will allow a 'genuine' competition so long as the candidates are acceptable to it," Mr. Yeung observed.

The legitimacy and credibility of the future leader would be in doubt if he or she was seen to be chosen by China, which Beijing could ill-afford given its eagerness for a stable transition, political analysts said.

The future of Hong Kong as a special administrative region of China also became clearer when Judge Yang said Saturday he wanted to retain the territory's Chief Secretary Anson Chan as his second-in-command if he won the top job.

"If I am the chief executive, Mrs. Chan staying on would give me a big hand. It would be a great honour, too," he said, adding Hong Kong did not wish to see major changes after the handover.

Mrs. Chan, who has not declared any interest in the job, is a consistent top scorer in popularity polls for chief executive and is well ahead of Judge Yang, Mr. Tung or Mr. Lo.

But the likelihood that China considers her too close to the British administration sets the odds against her succeeding the departing colonial Governor Chris Patten, analysts say.

U.K. Labour eager for conference unity

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party, staging its last party conference before the next general election, sought Sunday to present a united front that could attract voters back after 17 years in the political wilderness.

Centrist Labour leader Tony Blair, overwhelming favourite to oust conservative Prime Minister John Major in elections due by next May, has radically changed the party's image, loosening links with trade unions and abandoning its commitment to industry nationalisation.

But some socialist diehards are worried by the pace of change imposed by Mr. Blair.

His deputy, the blunt-talking John Prescott, warned in a weekend interview that the rush for reform could be counter-productive as Labour, traditional redoubt of the working class, wooes the middle class voters it needs to return to power for the first time since 1979.

"Sometimes you can go too fast. It will hit the wall, the buffers. The more you

pile on the change, the more and more people feel a little uneasy," Mr. Prescott told the Times newspaper.

Mr. Blair acknowledged in an interview with Sunday's Observer that the pace of change had been hectic: "We have undergone a huge process of change and it has been a hard, bumpy ride."

But he was unrepentant: "If we were not new Labour, forget it. We would not be in business as a political party."

Highlighting the sensitivity of some of Mr. Blair's policies, the Labour leader faced an embarrassing evening of raising state pensions.

Attempting to avert a damaging split, he agreed to set up a social commission to look into the emotive issue.

But veteran Labour spokeswoman Barbara Castle, who wants pensions linked to earnings, said Mr. Blair was "running scared."

Asked if the compromise proposal was enough to satisfy her, the 85-year-old Lady Barbara told BBC Television: "No, I don't

think it will satisfy the delegates."

Labour finance spokesman Gordon Brown, speaking on BBC Television, said he thought the leadership would win the conference vote on pensions.

But, wary of making specific spending pledges in the lead-up to elections, Mr. Brown insisted: "There have to be tough controls on public spending. The money isn't there."

Polls show the ruling Conservatives trailing Labour by at least 20 percentage points.

However, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke Sunday insisted that he would not give in to pressure from Conservative Party right-wingers and slash taxes in his November budget.

He also said he was not afraid to raise interest rates if inflationary pressures built up.

"Frothy tax cuts won't win a vote. It is not the case that my budget requires tax cuts in order to win the election," the chancellor told GMTV.

Sectarian violence looms over N. Ireland talks

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland peace talks resume Monday against a bleak backdrop of mounting sectarian attacks and warnings that guerrilla violence will erupt again unless swift political progress is made.

The United States, a key player in attempts to reconcile feuding Protestants and Catholics, has expressed alarm at the steadily deteriorating political and social climate since sectarian violence flared over the summer.

Jean Kennedy Smith, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland, said in a speech that ordinary people were living in fear since communal violence erupted over a Protestant Orange Order march at the small town of Drumcree in July.

"We have been aghast and shaken at the naked sectarianism that has risen from the ashes of Drumcree, by the senseless discrimination that fragments already struggling communities, by the childish and cruel protests against families as they headed to church to worship," she said.

She was referring to a wave of incidents in which churches have been attacked by extremists, businesses boycotted by both communities and worshippers picketed on their way to a Catholic Church.

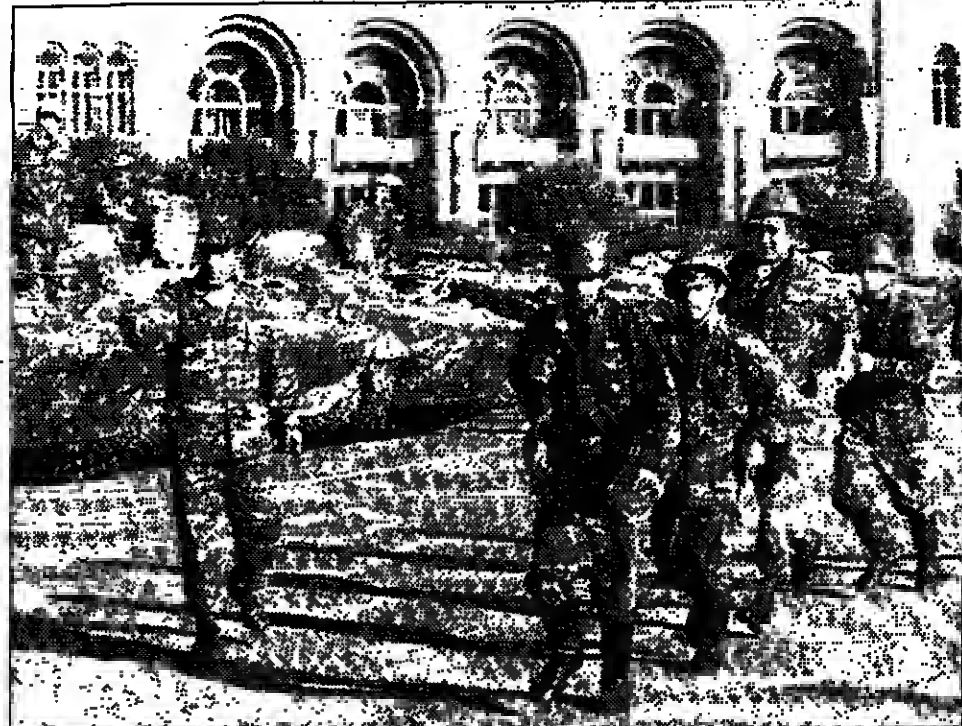
The grass-roots sectarianism has its extreme expression in the actions of the self-styled guardian armies of the two communities, Catholic-backed Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting to end British rule of the province and Protestant loyalists hailing to maintain it.

The IRA has not struck targets in Northern Ireland since it broke a 17-month ceasefire last February — limiting itself to bomb attacks on the British mainland — and its Protestant loyalist rivals have stuck to an uneasy truce of their own.

But police say any IRA attack in Northern Ireland itself would unleash a wave of loyalist reprisals that would return the province to a 25-year war which killed 3,200 and consign the faltering peace process to oblivion.

The discovery of an IRA bomb factory in London last week has underlined the absence of the multi-party Belfast peace talks of the guerrillas' political wing, Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein is excluded from the talks by the British and Irish governments until there is a new IRA ceasefire.



Armenian soldiers run to take their position in the central square in Yerevan Saturday. Troops eased their grip on the Armenian capital of Yerevan, two days after being sent into the streets by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to counter a mass protest against his reelection (Reuters photo)

Final results give president victory in Armenia elections

YEREVAN (Agencies) — Final figures released by the Armenian central Electoral Commission Sunday gave President Levon Ter-Petrosyan victory over his main opposition rival with 51.75 per cent of the vote.

Second-placed Vazgen Manukyan took 41.29 per cent, while Communist Sergei Badalyan took third place with 6.34 per cent.

The count — little changed from provisional figures released last week — means there is no need for a run-off ballot between the two top candidates.

Mr. Manukyan's supporters had protested against the provisional results, saying that voting figures for Mr. Ter-Petrosyan were inflated and there had been numerous instances of fraud.

International observers said there had been problems, but they stopped short of calling the election unfair. Some said the irregularities might have been enough to tip Mr. Ter-Petrosyan over the 50 per cent needed to win in the first round.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, an academic and Soviet-era dissident, sent troops and light tanks into the capital Yerevan to crush the opposition protests Thursday.

Western diplomats said at least 200 people had been arrested since the first round of voting in a crackdown on the opposition. Mr. Ter-Petrosyan aide Jerair Libaridyan has said details of arrests will be issued later.

Troops and tanks pulled back from the main streets of Yerevan Sunday as officials prepared to announce the final results of the election.

Soldiers, sent into Yerevan Thursday, are still guarding the central Republic Square, but they have pulled back from main thoroughfares.

International observers reported instances of fraud and irregularities during the election and the count, and said most of them were committed by the president's supporters. But they stopped short of calling the vote unfair.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan has said the riots which followed the early election results was an attempted "fascist" coup by "mentally ill people."

As well as dispatching troops, he closed the headquarters of some opposition parties

who say dozens of their members have been rounded up by the authorities.

Opposition figures deny they planned a coup.

Authorities released several arrested opposition lawmakers Friday.

The National Security Ministry issued a statement Friday guaranteeing the safety of participants in the high-profile chess tournament. President Ter-Petrosyan also offered his personal assurances of safety.

Three opposition lawmakers arrested Thursday amid allegations they were plotting a coup were released Friday.

A government official who insisted on anonymity said that several opposition activists have been quietly arrested.

On Friday, three of the lawmakers were released.

Among them was Paruir Ahrikian, who was beaten during the stormy parliament session Thursday by other lawmakers. His aide was also freed, the National Security Ministry said.

Mr. Ahrikian, an Armenian nationalist who was a political prisoner in Soviet times, has denied he had any role in organising the violence, blaming it on Mr. Manukyan.

Like Mr. Ahrikian, Mr. Ter-Petrosyan and Mr. Manukyan were dissidents in Soviet times who were imprisoned for being Armenian nationalists.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan was elected president in 1991 in Armenia's first presidential election.

His critics blame him for economic mistakes and a failure to resolve a bitter war with Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is inside Azerbaijan but populated by ethnic Armenians.

Both candidates have stood for market reforms, but Mr. Manukyan took a more populist course, promising to crack down on shadow economy, increase meager salaries tenfold and correct the course of a privatisation programme that benefited a small class of new rich.

Mr. Manukyan, 50, takes a harder line on Nagorno-Karabakh, and promised during the campaign to formally recognise its self-proclaimed independence as soon as he took office.



Miss England becomes Miss Europe 1996

TIRANA (R) — Miss England, fashion model Marie-Claire Harrison, won the Miss Europe '96 beauty contest in Tirana Saturday. Miss Belarus, Yelena Shcherbak, placed second and Miss Israel, Kim Rasliakova, was third. Ms. Harrison, 23, the 49th Miss Europe, won \$20,000 and will take home a traditional costume donated by Tirana City Hall. Born in the northern England town of Clitheroe, Lancashire, Ms. Harrison listed her hobbies as acting, water sports and eating cheese and pasta. The contest, featuring 35 contestants, took place in Albania's Palace of Congresses, a huge concrete monolith built in the Communist era. Miss Europe 1995, Monika Zidkova of the Czech Republic, crowned Ms. Harrison, who cried as she accepted the coveted beauty award. The pageant is the first of its kind in Albania, where a prudish former communist government once spurned gambling, television game shows and rock music excess. The photograph shows Miss Czech Republic Monika Zidkova (left) as Miss Europe 1995, crowns Miss England Marie-Claire Harrison (left) as Miss Europe 1996 (Reuters photo)

Singapore sheds fresh light on trade meeting

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore is even changing light bulbs in its quest to ensure that the inaugural ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization proceeds smoothly, keeping with its reputation for efficiency. The state's convention centre is replacing each of its more than 10,000 bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Singapore International Convention Centre (SICC), the island state's pouch of campaigns, it is not saying that the centre is replacing its own bulbs to reinforce the government's 2 million Singapore dollar "smile, Singapore" national campaign. The centre will deploy more than 1,000 staff around the clock to provide "class service," and another 1,000 volunteers from the government will be mobilised as liaison officers, drivers and security staff.

Half of French believe in extra-terrestrials

PARIS (R) — About half of the French people believe there is life on other planets but just one in 10 fears a war with another world, according to a public opinion poll made public Saturday. The Sofres poll for the weekly *Le Monde* magazine found that 48 per cent of those surveyed believe in extra-terrestrials while 45 per cent do not believe in them.

Police dog finds abducted baby in woods

VANCOUVER (R) — A police dog sent sniffing through deserted woodlands early Saturday found a newborn baby that had been abducted from the maternity ward by a woman posing as a photographer, police said. "The child was found safe and sound," Constable Ron Noye of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police told Reuters from Kelowna, a city in the agricultural interior of British Columbia where the baby boy was seized.

Mr. Noye added that a female suspect was arrested shortly afterwards, though not near the baby. He said a woman told the baby's mother she was a student photographer, and had won her permission Friday afternoon to take the baby outside the hospital to snap a picture. The "photographer" disappeared with the baby and for more than eight hours police roadblocks turned up nothing.

A phone tip around midnight directed police — with two search dogs — to a wooded area about 12 kilometres away. One of the dogs led the police to the baby, who was rushed back to the hospital to a relieved mother.

Famed Belgian battlefield site makes its mark

WATERLOO, Belgium (R) — Japanese rubbed shoulders with Norwegians, Finns with French, Irish with Indians. There were even Belgians, alongside Greeks, as this famed battlefield town celebrated its 200th anniversary. With civic leaders of 10 of the 75 other Waterloos scattered about the globe present, the original set about showing just how cosmopolitan it has become since the epic battle on June 18, 1815, when allied troops led by the Duke of Wellington broke French military dominance of Europe. "We can learn from you and you from us. That is what the European Union is about," said the announcer for a group of Finnish folk dancers. Many of the copy Waterloos were founded by soldiers who fought in the battle that changed the political face of Europe. On Saturday it was more a question of eating, drinking and listening.

Burma junta threatens end to Suu Kyi weekend talks

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's military authorities warned Sunday they could end Aung San Suu Kyi's weekend meet-the-public sessions as riot police blocked off access to the Nobel Peace laureate's residence for the third straight day.

A government statement carried in the New Light Of Myanmar also said the junta had banned a scheduled congress of her National League for Democracy (NLD) because of fears of "street disturbances."

NLD Chairman Aung Shwe said in a written statement it was "typical of the present military regime that they should try to resolve political differences through draconian measures instead of finding a constructive course of action."

An estimated 120 NLD activists were detained ahead of the planned three-day NLD congress, and another 100 or so were rounded up Saturday in the vicinity of the barricades around the time when the weekend talks were normally held.

The junta, which had tolerated the weekend gatherings outside Ms. Suu Kyi's lakeside compound, has served notice it will not allow the NLD to conduct overtly political activities, analysts said Sunday.

The meet-the-public sessions were allowed to continue partly because they indirectly provided the government with useful insights into public complaints, as well as with ammunition to use against the NLD.

But the junta drew the line

at NLD attempts to hold a party congress, saying this constituted "a political movement intended to incite riots and upheaval in the country," the state-run press reported Sunday.

"They're not happy about the speeches every weekend, but they go absolutely ballistic when they think the NLD is trying to challenge their political legitimacy," a long-time resident of Rangoon commented.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the junta is officially known, holds that its action in putting down nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988-1990 saved the country from breaking apart.

In May, authorities detained more than 260 people to keep them from an NLD congress at the compound which was to have discussed provisions for a national constitution, but they made no move to block the weekend speeches.

When the NLD let it be known last Thursday it was making another attempt at a party congress, authorities again started picking up people at their homes in the middle of the night and taking them away for questioning.

They also threw up barricades manned by armed riot police to keep all comers out of the area around the home where Ms. Suu Kyi served six years under house arrest until July 1995.

The cordon sanitaire was extended to NLD Rangoon division party headquarters some two miles away Friday after NLD activists trying to get to the com-

pound for the congress were turned back at the barricades.

The NLD statement denied it was trying to undermine stability and said it should not be necessary for a political party to seek permission from the authorities "to carry out its legitimate activities."

In banning the congress, the government also warned it could put an end to the weekend public meetings which, it said, was meant to disrupt the rule of law and economic order.

It did not flatly say the meetings would be halted, but it outlined arguments against them and said that Interior Ministry and security officials had warned the NLD in June that they "must no longer continue."

The junta continued to complain that the NLD was working with foreigners against Burma's interests, "inciting violence" to disrupt national security and economic development — a charge the NLD denied.

Articles in the New Light Of Myanmar Saturday and Sunday detailed contacts Ms. Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders had with foreign diplomats and journalists over the past two months, suggesting they were "fomenting trouble."

The NLD said that, having received the people's mandate in 1990 general elections, its policy was "to maintain friendly relations with as many diplomats as possible in the interest of international understanding."



Sri Lankan troops examine the bodies of female Tamil Tiger rebels killed when the army repulsed a fierce guerrilla counter-attack near the northern rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi. Government forces Sunday captured Kilinochchi (Reuters photo)

South Korean troops expand hunt for fleeing Northern infiltrators

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korean army helicopters carried food, water and fruits into the mountains Sunday as thousands of soldiers expanded a hunt for the last of North Korean armed infiltrators from a stranded submarine.

Television showed dozens of transport helicopters in a massive airlift of supplies for trackers chasing fugitives deep in a range of rugged northeastern mountains.

The airlift is now centred around Daekwanryong, a mountain pass leading to the border with North Korea, where a 21st infiltrator was shot dead Saturday some 15 kilometres west of the beach where the submarine ran aground 11 days ago, military officials said.

"The cordon has been extended to block the fugitives from fleeing into border areas," a Defence Ministry spokesman told AFP.

The infiltrator killed Saturday was found dressed in a South Korean army uniform and armed with an M-16 rifle, indicating he had tried to pass for a South Korean soldier, he said.

His pockets were filled with acorns and fruits bundled up in layers of underwear. He was identified by the sole prisoner taken alive earlier as the submarine's deputy captain.

So far, 20 North Korean infiltrators from the wrecked 325-tonne submarine have been shot dead or found executed by colleagues, leaving four fugitives still at large.

"We believe the four are still trapped by our cordon or in a desperate attempt to escape" toward the demilitarised zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, the spokesman said.

The 11th-day search by some 60,000 troops has also left four South Korean trackers and one civilian shot dead in firefights about 100 kilometres south of the DMZ.

"Despite the massive operation, the border remained quiet, with no unusual military movement on the Northern side, military officials here said.

On Friday, North Korea threatened to retaliate against what it called South Korea's "ill-intentioned" campaign over its wrecked sub.

"Our retaliation may be hundredfold or thousandfold. Firing should be answered with firing," the North warned through its official media.

The North, which is technically at war with the South, has demanded the unconditional return of the sub and its crew, arguing the sub had simply drifted South while on a training mission.

But South Korea flatly rejected the demand, calling the infiltration "an armed provocation."

The Communist North then charged Seoul with answering its demand with a "brutal operation to kill the survivors."

South Korea said Sunday the recent infiltration by armed North Korean agents was aimed at spying out military facilities in the South as part of Pyongyang's preparations for a large-scale provocation.

In a statement on the outcome of preliminary probes into the incident, the Defence Ministry said evidence seized from the Northern infiltrators, whom it branded as "armed guerrillas," showed that their aim was to reconnoitre Southern airports, radar bases and major military facilities.

"The findings prove that the infiltration was part of the North's combat-style reconnaissance activities in preparation for a large-scale provocation," the statement said, referring to detailed maps of expressways and other routes leading to the runways at an airport in the east coast city of Kangnung.

It said the seized evidence also included "panoramic" photographs taken of the area surrounding the Kangnung Airport.

It added that South Korean investigators have seized a total of 2,160 items from the infiltrators, including one recoilless gun, four Soviet-made AK rifles, two M-16 rifles, six pistols, hundreds of bullets, Southern army uniforms and other equipment used for infiltration and espionage missions.

An official at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the intrusion by the heavily-armed agents, all of whom had been identified as military officers, was regarded as Pyongyang's "planned" activity required to help revise or supplement its strategy for invasion of the South.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency quoted officials at the Joint Chiefs of Staff Sunday as saying that for the first time since the infiltration came to light, a reconnaissance helicopter of the U.S. forces in South Korea joined Southern troops' massive manhunt for the other four Northern fugitives.

Yonhap said the OH-58 helicopter has an advanced detector capable of distinguishing humans from animals in the darkness.

Comments from both South Korean and U.S. officials were not immediately available.

On Friday, South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung told the U.N. General Assembly that the Communist North may be planning more commando-style raids, denouncing what he called a "brazen act of military provocation" that showed Pyongyang "seeks Korean unification by any means including force."

"The investigation is still under way to find out the purpose of the infiltration... but the findings to date present a strong possibility that last week's infiltration is part of a larger-scale infiltration operation," he said.

Charges fly between ex-S. Africa apartheid agents over Palme killing

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The sinister South Africans who did apartheid's dirty work are turning their fangs on each other, using the murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in an increasingly venomous fight.

Three of the apartheid government's most notorious agents have waded into the row over the 1986 assassination in Stockholm, and the first casualty could be the truth.

Eugene De Kock, Dirk Coetzee and Craig Williamson, all assassins and masters of deceit, swapped charges in recent days as the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission seeks to apportion blame for apartheid atrocities.

Mr. De Kock, head of a police hit-squad who has been convicted of six apartheid-era murders, said in court last week that fellow-agent Williamson had carried out the Palme murder as part of an operation dubbed "Long Reach."

Mr. Williamson, who has acknowledged a role in three bombings of anti-apartheid activists in the 1980s, including the killing of African National Congress member Jeanette Schoon and her daughter, denied the charge.

Mr. Coetzee, Mr. De Kock's predecessor at the police murder unit, stirred the pot further Saturday when he said Palme was killed by a former special forces soldier in the then white-run Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) who was a member of Long Reach.

Mr. Williamson, in a telephone interview from Luanda Sunday, dismissed the charge, which Mr. Coetzee admitted was hearsay.

"All I can do is reiterate what I've said before, that I know absolutely nothing about the Palme killing. I haven't been to Sweden since 1978 or 79," Mr. Williamson said.

He acknowledged the ex-Rhodesian soldier from the Selous Scouts Unit had been in Long Reach, which Mr. Williamson described as a company he set up in the late 1980s to conduct political risk analysis for businesses and other clients.

"Long Reach employed former military intelligence agents, and some of them used it as a front for other activities. But it was a genuine political risk consultancy."

Mr. Coetzee deflected to the ANC in the late 1980s, the first senior secret police officer to reveal operations by the white minority government against its opponents.

Japan's Socialists bring back popular former leader ahead of elections

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Socialists brought back a popular former leader Sunday hours after centrist launched their own party in a frantic weekend of political activity to set off the country's election campaign.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto dissolved parliament Friday for the Oct. 20 general election, the first since his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lost its majority in 1993.

Japan's Social Democratic Party (SDP) announced Sunday it had brought its former chairwoman Takako Doi back to head the flagging junior force in the ruling coalition during the election run.

"After serious thought I decided to fight," Ms. Doi, 67, told a news conference.

"The situation is serious and acute," Ms. Doi, Japan's best

known female politician, is facing a formidable task as the party has suffered major defections to the new Democratic Party and is fighting for its survival.

The current party head, former premier Tomiichi Murayama, said he and Ms. Doi "will unite as one to represent the party and fight alongside, as if in a three-legged race, for the election."

Mr. Murayama, 72, will serve in the new post of special senior representative as well as chief of campaign for the general election.

Ms. Doi, who was the speaker of the lower house until it was dissolved, hinted that her party may abandon the coalition with the LDP and New Party Sakigake.

"I have given no thought to it. We don't fight for the sake of the LDP," she said in a television interview.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto also indicated Sunday that his party may change coalition partners after the elections, Jiji Press reported.

"First, we have to see results of the election, and then if there is a partner who we can agree with (to form a coalition), we will do so," Mr. Hashimoto was quoted as saying.

Ms. Doi's new mission could lead the party back to Socialist idealism and away from the 27-month-old coalition of convenience with the conservative LDP and the centrist Sakigake, commentators said.

"There may be a big swing-back from the realistic policy which has been nurtured by the SDP in the three-party coalition," the leading economic newspaper Nihon Keizai commented.

Sri Lankan army captures major Tamil rebel base

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's military Sunday captured the Tamil Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi, the last major town under rebel control.

A military spokesman said the troops who launched an offensive a week ago from the northern road junction town of Paranthan moved into the rebel stronghold after encircling Kilinochchi.

"Troops captured the entire township of Kilinochchi at 1630 hours (1000 GMT) today," he said.

"Clearing operations are in progress and the troops are consolidating in Kilinochchi," he added.

Military officials said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set up base in the town, 285 kilometres north of Colombo, in April after the army captured the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The spokesman said the LTTE had put up fierce resistance to the attacking military because of the importance of the town for the rebels.

"The LTTE has not been able to subject the people to heavy taxation and also to administer the civilian population. The only township that is left to be used by the LTTE to reestablish administrative control over the people was Kilinochchi," he said.

The Tigers, fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country, had ruled Jaffna as a mini-state for almost a decade with their own administration, courts and police.

They had also collected taxes from the people to help finance the 13-year war against the predominantly Sinhalese government troops.

The military launched the first major push for more than a month after digging in at Paranthan, six kilometres north of Kilinochchi, a gateway to the rebels' jungle stronghold of the Wanni.

The army has said it wants to reopen the highway connecting Jaffna and Colombo, which passes through 70 kilometres of rebel-held territory separating Jaffna and the mainland.

It is the first major victory for the military since the LTTE overran the north-

eastern Mullaitivu Camp in July, killing or capturing almost its entire garrison of well over 1,000 men.

Troops, backed by tanks, artillery and planes, advanced on the town in a pincer move, military officials said.

Earlier Sunday a large rebel force attacked a remote police post about 28 kilometres from the eastern port of Trincomalee in a bid to divert the military's attention away from Kilinochchi.

The Defence Ministry has said nearly 700 rebels have been killed and more than 650 wounded while the army has lost 229 soldiers in the assault on Kilinochchi. Nearly 300 soldiers have been wounded.

Western aid officials said medical centres run by non-governmental organisations were short of drugs to treat civilians wounded in the fighting.

"It is difficult for our team to work because of a shortage of medical supplies," said a spokeswoman for a Western aid agency operating south of Kilinochchi.

Military analysis said the fall of Kilinochchi was a significant breakthrough in the government's battle against the LTTE, saying the rebels would now be restricted to small villages and vast tracts of jungles.

However, analysts said the Tigers were highly committed fighters who were prepared to commit suicide to avoid capture, and had a formidable capacity to keep up devastating guerrilla attacks.

There was no immediate word from the Tigers but the fall of the town was not totally unexpected after the rebels destroyed the town's telecom tower Friday.

Military officials said then the move signalled the imminent withdrawal of the guerrillas who would not want to leave useful assets behind.

"All the shops in Kilinochchi had been looted by the time we got in," the spokesman said. "All the good buildings had been blasted to deprive us of using them as shelters for troops."

CNN poll puts Dole 9 points behind Clinton

WASHINGTON (R) — Republican presidential challenger Bob Dole Saturday narrowed the gap behind President Bill Clinton to single digits for the first time in the daily CNN/USA Today tracking poll.

Sen. Dole had the support of 39 per cent of people, nine points behind Mr. Clinton's 48 per cent, CNN said. Texas billionaire Ross Perot was trailing in third place with six per cent.

But a poll commissioned by the Washington Post and published in the paper's Sunday editions showed Mr. Clinton leading Sen. Dole with 52 per cent to 37 per cent, with Mr. Perot getting five per cent.

The CNN-USA Today poll of likely voters was conducted by Gallup and had a margin of error of plus or minus four per cent.

While other polls have put the gap between the two front-runners at less than 10 points recently, it was the first time the CNN-USA Today series had done so.

Although it showed Mr. Clinton still with a comfortable margin, it pointed to a significant tightening of the race.

Just a week ago, the same poll put Mr. Clinton at 54 per cent against 34 per cent for Sen. Dole, a gap of 20 points, CNN said.

The new Washington Post poll, conducted together with Harvard University and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, surveyed 1,144 registered voters on Sept. 20 to Sept. 26, including 954 who said they were "certain" to cast ballots.

The poll, which has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, revealed that many voters are not yet paying close attention to the presidential campaign, with one out of five voters unsure whether Mr. Perot is a candidate.

Last Monday, the ABC News poll said Mr. Clinton had a 12-point lead over Sen. Dole, with 52 per cent against 40 per cent, while Mr. Perot had just four per cent.

Meanwhile, Sen. Dole gave a sneak preview Saturday of his first debate with President Clinton, reciting a laundry list of items he claimed Mr. Clinton won't tell the public.

The Republican presidential challenger devoted his five-minute Saturday radio broadcast to a discussion of the debate set for a week from Sunday in Hartford, Connecticut, ticking off political points he said Mr. Clinton would omit.

A second debate is set for Oct. 16 in San Diego.

The televised debates are considered critical for Sen. Dole who has lagged behind Mr. Clinton in polls and who, analysts say, must make a dramatic winning impression to catch up with his Democratic opponent.

In his pre-debate warm up, Sen. Dole said he hoped listeners and viewers would tune in to hear the two candidates discuss their differences ahead of the Nov. 5 election.

"But I also hope you'll be listening carefully to what the president does not say," said Sen. Dole, who is preparing for the debate.

Sen. Dole took a quick mid-morning break with his wife

Elizabeth, stopping in at a Miami Beach deli-style restaurant to shake hands and pose for photos with elderly diners.

In his radio chat, Sen. Dole listed his version of the Clinton record.

"What the president won't talk about is the fact that when he asked for your vote in 1992, he promised America a middle class tax cut and he won't tell you that in 1993, after he was elected, he hit all Americans with a \$265 billion tax increase," which he said was the largest in the world.

He added that Mr. Clinton would also avoid talking about his proposals for "pork barrel spending" and his opposition to a balanced budget amendment to the constitution.

"And what he certainly will not talk about during the debate is a proposal he spent a good share of his first two years in office fighting for — a government takeover of the health care system on Earth," Sen. Dole said.

The health care plan criticism and other topics are regular fare during Sen. Dole's campaign appearances, and Mr. Clinton's campaign has countered virtually every point.

"The president will try to paint a rosy picture of America's economy," said Sen. Dole.

"He'll tell you that household income increased last year," said Sen. Dole. "But what he will not tell you is that incomes have gone down in most of his term and they are now only catching up to where they were when he took office."

Sen. Dole said Mr. Clinton would not tell listeners that the economic recovery was the slowest in a century, that the U.S. trade deficit just jumped 43 per cent in one month to a four-year high, and that taxes accounted for a growing portion of families' household expenses.

He added that Mr. Clinton would not talk about cutting staffing and funding in the war against drugs.

The Clinton campaign moved quickly to rebut Sen. Dole's points, pointing to a Census Bureau report issued this week showing wages growing and poverty declining last year.

"That Bob Dole would attempt to use the debates as an opportunity to scare the American people about the economy... shows the desperation of his 'midnight in America' campaign," campaign spokesman Joe Lockhart said in a statement.

On the Medicare health programme for the aged — a topic of vital concern to retirees in this state with a high percentage of older voters — Sen. Dole claimed Mr. Clinton "has done absolutely nothing to insure its solvency — nothing except to mislead seniors into thinking that Republicans want to cut Medicare."

Sen. Dole said he would talk about his tax cut plan, which he said would save an average \$1,260 on the tax bill of an average four person family — money he said could be used for child care, community college tuition, rent or computers.

"That's a belief I'm ready to debate seven days a week, 24 hours a day because I know you can do a better job in spending your money than the government can," he said.

Clinton hears golden oldies, gets beanpot

BOSTON (R) — David Crosby propped his guitar on his ample stomach. Joe Walsh looked kind of stooped. Stephen Stills had a skullcap-sized bald spot.

Back when they were young and restless in the '60s and '70s, they would not have been caught dead at a campaign rally. But fast-forward to 1996, and here they were playing golden oldies for President Bill Clinton and Democratic Sens. John Kerry and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

It was Saturday night at Fleet Centre, the spit-shined replacement for the venerable Boston Garden where the Boston Celtics played basketball. About 12,000 people turned out for a concert to raise \$1 million for Sen. Kerry's difficult reelection campaign against popular Republican Governor William Weld.

Mr. Clinton, who as a young man drove around Hot Springs, Arkansas, singing Elvis Presley songs, tapped his foot to the music and had a big grin on his face, seated in the front row between Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Kerry.

The irony of bawling one-time foes of the establishment performing at a campaign rally was not lost on Sen. Kerry, who seemed to be recalling some fond memories of his own from the '60s.

"Who would have even thought 30 years ago that we'd be here listening to these same people at a political rally — and still keep our clothes on?" he said.

He went on to rail against smoking tobacco and gave Mr. Clinton a beanpot full of Boston baking beans — "The best of Boston with the understanding that this is better than McDonald's."

There was plenty of nostalgia for the over-40 set.

Peter, Paul and Mary had the crowd swaying with Puff the Magic Dragon and Blowin' in the Wind. Joe Walsh of the Eagles brought back memories with In the City.

Another Eagles star, Don Henley, sang a few songs, but was perhaps more noteworthy for delivering a political speech honouring Mr. Clinton for making 1.7 million acres (680,000 hectares) of Redrock Canyon in southern Utah a national monument and protected from coal mining.

Crosby, Stills and Graham Nash showed signs of the masterful harmony that once made them one of America's hottest groups.

Updating the anti-war song, Find The Cost Of Freedom, to 1996, they dedicated it to the men and women of the armed forces "in harm's way."

Crosby looked to have rebounded from a liver transplant, but his girth was such that his stomach was a good prop for his guitar.

The trio was joined at the end by Carly Simon, the Massachusetts legend who rarely performs before live audiences. She sang harmony for Teach Our Children, and in introductory remarks referred to Senator Kennedy as "President Kennedy."

It was the end of a long day for the president, who rose before dawn in Houston to spend the day campaigning in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He and his exhausted entourage arrived back in Washington at 2 a.m. EDT (0600 GMT) Sunday.

"You can travel the length and breadth of this country," Sen. Kennedy told him to roars from the crowd, "but you'll never get a better reception than in Massachusetts."

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Resolution with purpose

A LAST-MINUTE intervention by U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright may have succeeded in preventing the U.N. Security Council from arriving at unanimity on a resolution addressing the latest crisis in Palestine, but it did not stop the council from adopting a timely and important resolution by 14 votes against none. The Americans chose to abstain at the 11th hour on a very balanced text duly negotiated with all the parties, including the U.S., ostensibly for fear the resolution may antagonise Israel at a time when Washington was trying to broker a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Still, the U.S. abstention does not lessen the importance of the adopted text since it has not suggested opposition to the operative paragraphs, either explicitly or implicitly.

The central point in the resolution adopted Saturday was the paragraph calling for the "immediate cessation and reversal of all acts," which aggravated the situation in Palestine and produced negative implications. We do not see any reason for any country including Israel to object to a language that demands the restoration of the status quo ante in East Jerusalem. The opening of a controversial archaeological tunnel near Al Aqsa Mosque six days ago triggered the whole new cycle of violence between the two sides, and it stands to reason therefore that efforts be made to roll back any act which lay behind the sudden deterioration in the situation between them. Granted there was more to the Israeli-Palestinian clashes than the mere opening of the tunnel. Yet it must be admitted that the tunnel issue was viewed not only by the Arabs but many others as well as yet another act of defiance by the Netanyahu government. This government, it may be recalled, has come to be known for foot-dragging on the implementation of the Oslo accords, to the point in fact of suffocating them.

The other salient language in the resolution called for the "immediate resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis," and the "timely implementation of the agreements reached." This language should be interpreted to mean that negotiations on all remaining fronts should be resumed immediately on the basis enunciated in the resolution. In other words, those negotiations should resume from the points where they had left off at the end of the term of the government of former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres rather than start all over again from scratch. This also stipulates that the Syrian-Israeli peace talks should proceed on the basis of what former prime ministers Peres and Rabin had agreed to.

For accords already signed, for example the Oslo accords, the Saturday's resolution rightly called for their "timely" implementation. This formula suggests that no more procrastination by Israel can be tolerated. This is fair and square to all sides, and neither Israel nor the U.S. should find any trouble dealing with it. As a matter of fact the substitute of the word "timely" for the word "immediate" was introduced upon the insistence of Washington in a bid to reduce the pressure on Israel at this particular juncture in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. On the other hand, the call for ensuring "the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians" is obviously in harmony with the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 which urges occupying powers to extend protection to peoples under occupation. The Security Council's members clearly did not create this solemn obligation but merely reflected it faithfully and responsibly in accordance with international law.

The value of the just-adopted resolution acquires an added importance as it comes on the eve of projected meetings between Netanyahu and Arafat either alone or in the company of the American, Egyptian and Jordanian leaders. Laying as it does the framework for all future remedial actions, the words of the resolution could prove helpful for all. Of course we would like to see future summits on all Middle East peace process expanded, at an appropriate stage, to include the Syrians and the Lebanese. After all, without the inclusion of Damascus and Beirut in the process we will always have a critical element missing from both peace-making and peace-building in the region.

Economic Review

The need for strategic competition

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

JORDANIAN ECONOMISTS and private and public sector leaders attended an excellent two-day workshop last week at the Investment Promotion Corporation during which experts from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) addressed several issues relevant to Jordan's entry into the WTO. Among the issues presented and discussed were the effects of observing intellectual property rights on domestic industries and the need for cohesive planning which requires coordination, not only between the concerned public sector institutions but also between the public and private sectors. This will be a reasonable challenge to both parties because both are used to hiding information as a way of preserving bureaucratic power. However, the matter that should have also been discussed was the idea of strategic competition and its usage in international investment and trade. So what is strategic competition?

It is best to demonstrate the complexity of this type of competition with a simple example. Suppose that there are two large tourist companies A and E, one in Jordan and the other in Israel, respectively. Each of the companies is contemplating opening a mini-Disneyland at a point on the border between Aqaba and Eilat. Additionally, assume that the necessary technology is available to both at the same cost. Each firm reaches the conclusion that if it enters the market alone, that entry will be highly profitable. However, if both firms enter, both will end up losing money. In other words, the economies of scale (profits that emerge due to cost saving from producing large quantities) are enough to make one company profitable, but not both.

If a firm enters the market while the other does not, the entrant makes a \$10 million and the other makes zero dollars. If both firms enter the market at once, then each loses one million dollars. If both firms decide not to enter then

they both make zero dollars; i.e., they neither lose nor win. In order to make the problem a bit clearer, the following table demonstrates the payoffs to each firm as stated in parenthesis inside the cells. Firm A has two strategies "enter" or "do not enter"; these are represented by the two columns below. Firm E has the same strategies and they are represented by the rows of the matrix. The payoffs to A are the second entry inside the brackets, and E's payoffs are the first element in each bracket. The matrix of the game is represented below.

Firm in Aqaba Firm in Eilat		Firm in Eilat	
		Enter	Do not enter
Firm in Aqaba	Enter	(-1, 1) (10, 0)	(0, 10) (0, 0)
	Do not enter	(0, 10) (0, 0)	(0, 0) (0, 0)

Note that the expected profits are symmetric and depend on what the competitor does. What will happen? Could both firms decide to enter? Such misjudgements do happen as in the real life example of Lockheed and McDonnell-Douglas in the 1970s when both introduced the same type of jets.

Could one of the firms decide not to enter? This would be a rational choice when the other firm signals its commitment to entry; in other words, if one of the firms makes a credible threat, the other should heed the signal and decide not to enter. Also, the outcome of the game could be quite different if either the Jordanian government or that of Israel decide to subsidise its respective company. Here the company that receives the most subsidy will benefit the most and win the game.

Suppose further that if one of the firms enters first, it gains a monopoly advantage and is able to deter the other from entering; then the first to enter becomes the victor.

Suppose that one of the governments, say that of Israel, decides to alter the payoffs of the game by subsidising part

of the venture for company E, by giving it \$2 million to enter, regardless of the outcome of the venture. The matrix would then look like the table below:

Firm in Aqaba Firm in Eilat		Firm in Eilat	
		Enter	Do not enter
Firm in Aqaba	Enter	(1, -1) (12, 0)	(0, 10) (0, 0)
	Do not enter	(0, 10) (0, 0)	(0, 0) (0, 0)

Note that with the subsidy, firm E stands to win \$1 million, instead of losing \$1 million, or win \$12, instead of \$10, as in the previous table and, therefore, the game is no longer symmetric. In fact, it is no longer the same game.

What is the outcome of this game? Firm E will clearly choose to enter, regardless of what the other firm does. Why? Because of the subsidy which makes firm E better off with entry, regardless of the strategic play of the other.

Israel has already done this in many games between its firms and Jordanian competitors, especially when the game concerns a border or a common tourist sites.

In games of competition for tourists, Israeli tourist companies lure tourists to Eilat by offering them a free one day trip to Petra. The Israeli Tourism Ministry, whose budget increased by 1,100 per cent from 1990 to 1995, offers many subsidies to tour agents and gives them access to information and data bases that helps them compete with Jordan and Egypt for tourists. Thus, they are able to subsidise the consumer's choice and serve it to their advantage. That is the essence of strategic thinking, and Israel boasts of having some of the top scholars in the field, while Jordanian universities shy away from teaching it at the bachelor's degree level.

Jordanian firms and institutes must make room for strategists and involve them in the science of making better decisions.

Why dismembering Iraq would be a bad idea

By Shibley Telhami

The idea of dismembering Iraq has gained some recent currency as an option to addressing the threats posed by the Baath regime in Baghdad. The menacing nature of a government is seen by Stephen S. Rosenfeld in a recent commentary (International Herald Tribune, Sept. 16) as a justification for breaking up a state. Yet it is this very prospect that has generated the deepest fear in the Arab World and made Arabs reluctant to cooperate with U.S. military actions. On this issue, publicists and rulers in the region are of the same mind.

The principle that rallied Arabs against Iraq six years ago is the same principle that would rally Arabs to preserve Iraq today: sovereignty. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, it employed the same arguments to justify its actions that proponents of dismemberment employ today: that the country was "artificially" created. In a region where states were sometimes arbitrarily created and where boundaries were drawn by European powers that split the spoils of World War I, the prospect that this justification might gain legitimacy is particularly troubling. And when powerful states make unilateral judgements about sovereignty, no weak state can feel safe.

Yet the public airing of the dismemberment idea provides a service: It highlights the sources of strain within the U.S. coalition against Iraq that have left many Americans puzzled. With the understandable exception of Kuwait, those that have most to fear from Saddam Hussein in the Arab



'Justify my day, Saddam?'

World have been most concerned about U.S. attacks against him. Humanitarian concern for the Iraqi people, worries about public sentiments in the Arab World and the prevalent feeling that states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are not consulted enough about decisions affecting their futures combine to explain some, but not all, of the Arab apprehension.

Behind the deep Arab fear is the widespread suspicion, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula, that — U.S. official commitment to the territorial integrity of Iraq notwithstanding — the United States may be mov-

ing toward Iraq's dismemberment. Driving these suspicions was the American handling of the crisis in northern Iraq. Why else, they ask, would the United States acquiesce in the Iranian incursion into northern Iraq and support Turkish moves there but not accept the Iraqi government's role? The Iranian intervention was particularly troubling to most Gulf states, which continue to see Iran as their biggest long-term threat.

While the disintegration of Iraq is unlikely to result in an Iranian-allied Shiite state in the south, the probable outcome would resemble

the bloody instability in post-Communist Afghanistan. The consequence would be that no Gulf state would be able to balance the power of Iran in the future, and armed conflict within Iraq would present new internal threats to the region about which the impressive U.S. military presence could do little.

There has been a sense that the coalition against Iraq has weakened significantly in the past few months. Yet the disagreements between Arab states and the United States today are not about the original principles that brought the coalition together, but about

unilateral American policy objectives. Despite growing misgivings about U.S. policy in the region, a new Iraqi invasion of Kuwait would rally Arabs against Iraq in even bigger numbers than in 1990. And Iraq's neighbours still would like to see the demise of the Iraqi rulers, which they do not equate with the disintegration of Iraq — elusive as this objective of demise has proven to be. But if the choice is between Saddam Hussein and the disintegration of Iraq, their preference is starkly clear.

Arab reservations about U.S. policy towards Iraq are compounded by an emerg-

ing sense of siege in the Arab World. In a region where international conspiracy theories remain popular in the face of local impotence, the apparent stalemate in the Arab-Israeli conflict and rising tensions between Israel and Syria have revived fears that Israel, supported by the United States, now seeks to weaken the Arab World. The possible dismemberment of Iraq is seen as one troubling example.

The greatest achievements of the peace process in the past few years, has been to highlight to Israel, and its Arab peace-partners their commonalities of interest; what's good for one side is no longer bad for the other. Recent setbacks to the peace process have revived old thinking and have blurred the fact that Israel stands to lose from the disintegration of Iraq. The biggest threat to Israel in the future is the terrorism that comes from regional instability, not conventional Iraqi military capabilities.

The greatest service to the Arab-Israeli peace process and to regaining the confidence of GCC states and Israel's peace partners in this difficult stage of Middle East diplomacy could come cheaply: an Israeli statement defending the principle of Iraqi territorial integrity and repeated American iteration of the same position.

The writer, director of Cornell University's Near Eastern Studies Programme, is on a fact-finding tour in Abu Dhabi for the Council on Foreign Relations study group on Gulf security. This article is reprinted from The Washington Post.

In Iran, change awaits an economic crunch

By Thomas L. Friedman

TEHRAN — What produces a Mikhail Gorbachev?

You see, if change is to come to Iran, it is not going to come by the Shah's son riding back on a white horse. And it isn't going to come by way of the ragtag Iranian opposition based in Iraq regaining power in Tehran.

If Iran is to become the more pragmatic, fully law-abiding member of the world community that the West seeks, it will only be because an Iranian Gorbachev emerges from the Muslim leadership that now thoroughly dominates it and is able to forge a more moderate, but still Islamic, course from within.

Mikhail Gorbachev was produced by a combination of economic and social pressures that came together

in the Soviet Union in the mid-1980s. Have U.S. economic sanctions on Iran shown any sign of producing a Gorbachev-like figure within Tehran's Islamic leadership? The consensus answer here is: "No — not yet."

Why? For one thing, Iran's merchants, through ingenuity and corruption, have found enough alternative markets and ways around the U.S. sanctions to stay in business.

I just spent a morning walking through Tehran's sprawling bazaar, which was packed with shoppers. I asked one merchant after another how U.S. sanctions affected them. The vast majority didn't know there were U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Others said they were adapting — the wedding dressmaker was getting material from Japan, the rug dealer was selling to

Germany, the jeans maker was getting fabric through Turkey. The export-imponer said credit was very tight but there was nothing he could not buy from America through Dubai or European intermediaries.

But gold dealers said business was slow because Iran's 50 per cent inflation had eaten away incomes, so many newlyweds could not afford gold.

Iran's economy grew at 1.5 per cent last year. Not great, but not a disaster. "U.S. sanctions have had little effect, because the only countries supporting them are America and Israel," said A.N.S. Khamooshi, head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce.

But the more important reason why Iran's economic crunch has not become critical is oil. Iran's Islamic government still earns 80 per cent of its foreign

exchange from oil exports, which also account for almost 70 per cent of government revenues. Because Iran has no problem selling its 2.5 million barrels a day, the regime has a steady income, without having to radically restructure the economy and open up to the world the way the Soviet Union had to.

The camp of technocrat-pragmatists allied to President Hashemi Rafsanjani argues that Iran cannot live off its oil industry for ever, especially since it now needs a huge amount of reinvestment to sustain its oil wells. But this group is opposed by a still dominant majority led by the nation's spiritual guide, Ali Khamenei, who argues that the Islamic Republic is growing fast enough and that growth of the economy is not the only priority, because with it comes a corrupting materi-

alism, from the Disney Channel to McDonald's.

There is a strong anti-growth movement among the mullahs. During recent parliamentary elections, graffiti at a building site in plush north Tehran said: "Enough prosperity."

Still, with a soaring population of 65 million people, half of whom are under the age of 17, Iran will eventually have to overhaul its state-dominated economy if it is to provide enough new jobs to absorb all its young people. That is when things will get interesting.

To export oil requires no social change. To export computer chips or auto parts that are globally competitive requires a real restructuring of the Iranian economy, major foreign investment, an unleashing of the private sector and a real integration with the world.

So when will that crunch come? When Iran's steadily rising population runs into Iran's gradually declining oil revenues. That will not be next year, but it is coming. Only then will Iran have to face the reality that it cannot export revolution and auto parts at the same time, because exporting revolution leads to isolation from the world, and exporting auto parts demands the world.

Only then will conditions be right for an Ayatollah Gorbachev to emerge — a cleric who will try to moderate Iran's Islamic system in order to preserve it.

And until then? An Iranian woman I know put it best: "Iran will never be a happy place as long as we have oil. We could be Japan if we didn't have oil."

The New York Times

U.S. in ironic position of abstaining on resolution calling for peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States, chief sponsor of Middle East peace talks, was put in the ironic position of abstaining on a resolution calling for the immediate resumption of the stalled negotiations.

This was because the document endorsed late on Saturday by all 14 other council members also contained other elements to which its ally Israel strongly objected.

Voting for such a resolution would have angered Israel's supporters in the United States six weeks before a presidential election. The remaining options were to veto a draft U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright had worked hard to refine, or to abstain.

Shortly before the vote, Ms. Albright was reported to have asked for more time to consult Washington following an intervention from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, currently in New York. But other council members, weary after lengthy negotiations, insisted on a vote.

Explaining her abstention after a two-minute, speechless meeting at which the resolution was adopted, Ms. Albright told reporters the United States had been "working non-stop for the last 48 hours" to try to set up a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, and believed one was close.

"We want to make sure the people on the ground have every opportunity to come together. And we think that that is the most important part of what has to happen here, and therefore we believe that an abstention was the appropriate action."

The resolution was the council's reaction to bloody clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops that claimed nearly 70 lives after Israel opened a new entrance to a controversial archaeological tunnel near the Al Aqsa Mosque.

While the resolution did not specifically criticize Israel, it implicitly called for the closing of the tunnel entrance and contained other elements that Israel said made it one-sided and unbalanced.

"The council did not even see fit to mention directly the Israeli casualties of the last few days," Israel's U.N. mission said in a statement.

After referring in its preamble to the opening of the new tunnel entrance "and its consequent results," the resolution called for the "immediate cessation and reversal of all acts" which aggravated the situation and had negative implications for the Middle East peace process.

During a day-long debate on Friday, the council heard a succession of speakers who criticised Israel's new right-wing government over the tunnel and accused it of dragging its feet on the peace process and of failing to implement agreements with the Palestinians by the previous Labour government.

On this, the council resolution called for the "immediate resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis" and the "timely implementation of the agreements reached."

It also called for "the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians to be ensured."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's U.N. observer, Nasser Al Kidwa, said: "We appreciate the fact that the Security Council was able to shoulder its responsibilities in this useful resolution. Now we hope that the Israeli government will understand the message and heed the requests contained in the resolution," he said, while expressing surprise at the U.S. abstention.

At one point during private consultations among council members, after council President Alfredo Lopes Cabral of Guinea Bissau banged his gavel in the belief he had agreement on a final text, council sources said a U.S. representative interjected that his delegation needed to consult further.



Palestinians pray over two graves of Palestinian youths killed by Israeli troops as hundreds of demonstrating Palestinians reach the cemetery on Sunday. Palestinian security forces accompanied the marchers to ensure tempers were kept under control and that the marchers did not proceed to any Israeli check point. The march passed off peacefully (Reuters photo)

Israel raises option of disarming Palestinian police, may reconsider Hebron redeployment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel should consider disarming Palestinian police if they open fire again on Israelis, an aide to headline prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday.

"For now we aren't thinking of that. But if such things will continue and such incidents will recur, we will have to think about that also," adviser David Bar-Ilan told Israel Radio when asked about the prospect.

Since his return in 1994 to run self-rule under a peace deal with Israel, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has armed a police force of 30,000. Israel says the police are to maintain order and fight anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Israel's opening of a tunnel in Jerusalem last week sparked violence in which 54 Palestinians and 14 Israeli soldiers were killed, mostly in gunbattles in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdainah rejected the idea of disarming the police, telling Reuters: "Arming Palestinian police is part of the agreement, there is an agreement on this and they know it."

In a separate interview Labour opposition leader Shimon Peres assailed any thought of changing security arrangements. As foreign minister and later prime minister, Mr. Peres implemented the landmark peace deals until his defeat by Mr. Netanyahu in May.

Mr. Bar-Ilan said Israel would also have to rethink its long-delayed handover of parts of the West Bank city of Hebron to Palestinian rule in light of the gunfights that erupted between its soldiers and Palestinian police.

His tough talk came just as Israel was facing growing world criticism of its policy.

At the United Nations on Saturday, the United States cast the lone abstention when the 14 other members of the Security Council called for the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians to be ensured and for the immediate resumption of the Middle East peace process.

Both the United States and the United Nations have been trying to arrange a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat to avert more bloodshed.

But Mr. Bar-Ilan said an end to violence was required before Mr. Netanyahu would meet Mr. Arafat. He said any Israeli-PLO summit should include U.S. participation. Washington is Israel's closest ally and a key broker in five years of peace talks.

"The end to violence must come first of all," Mr. Bar-Ilan told the radio. "It's not a matter of a condition. It's a matter of an immediate development."

"We...believe that such a meeting would be more effective if the Americans took part because they're apparently the only ones who can convince the Palestinians that it's better the violence stops," he said.

Diplomatic sources said they were working on a plan for Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu to meet first at an unspecified location, and then in Washington together with President Bill Clinton. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein.

On Saturday night Mr. Netanyahu rejected international pressure and vowed never to close the tourist tunnel running through an archaeological site near Islam's third holiest shrine. The opening sparked international condemnation.

"It does not speak well of the international community" that "it accepts this violence...As a legitimate means of negotiation," he told cheering Christian supporters in Jerusalem.

"The tunnel has been around for 2,000 years. It will stay open. It will always be open," he told the crowd.

Palestinian police kept a lid on protests in most of the West Bank and Gaza on Saturday, but about 30 Palestinians and nine Israeli soldiers were injured in sporadic clashes between stone-throwing Palestinian youngsters and Israeli troops.

King: Government should proceed with programme

(Continued from page 1)

opposition and accusing it of being in crisis.

The opposition, which is led by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), responded by levelling its severest attack yet on the prime minister and restressing the demand for his resignation.

A government source was quoted as saying that Mr. Kabirul would consider bringing the Islamists into the government but the IAF, which has 16 representatives in the House, said it would not join the government despite individual indications by some of its members that they would favour joining the executive.

Meanwhile, sources said that King Hussein would summon the 12th Parliament to convene in the last ordinary session of its current four-year term on Nov. 11.

Sources said that postponing the convening of Parliament from October to November is meant to "let things cool off" between the government and opposition and does not mean or entail plans for a government reshuffle.

The sources said elections for the next Parliament will not be postponed and denied reports that a 48-hour extraordinary session will be held to discuss the resignation of deputies Nazih Anmarin and Trad Al Qadi. Deputy Qadi has already announced that he had withdrawn his resignation.

Unless reconciliation is achieved between the executive and legislative authorities before the House convenes, the session is expected to witness heated confrontations between the opposition and government. But it is unlikely that the 23 opposition lawmakers would succeed in passing a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet in which all but the IAF parliamentary blocs are represented.

The House last convened in an extraordinary session which King Hussein ended with a Royal Decree on Aug. 16.

King leaves to U.S. today

(Continued from page 1)

added.

King Hussein made two separate calls to Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Sharif added.

Political observers expected Mr. Mubarak to accept the invitation, meaning that all leaders invited to the summit would be present at the meeting.

A Jordanian official, quoted by Reuters earlier, said the summit was planned for Tuesday.

"God willing, His Majesty will leave for the United States on Monday to try and help efforts aimed at ending the violence and to revive peace talks on all tracks," the official, who requested anonymity, was quoted as saying by Reuters. "The whole peace process and region is in real danger."

Jordan has strongly criticised Israel's reopening of a controversial tunnel near Islamic holy places in Arab East Jerusalem. The King has asked for a thorough investigation into the effects of the move.

The reopening of the move led to clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces. The clashes killed nearly 60 Palestinians and 14 Israeli soldiers.

The King told the Council of Ministers on Saturday that the crisis showed that Jordan's position that there should not be a gap in sovereignty over Jerusalem was right and that the Israeli reopening of the tunnel was aimed at showing the Jewish state had the sole say in Jerusalem affairs. He said Jordan had no prior knowledge of the Israeli plan to reopen the tunnel.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty of October 1994 acknowledges the Kingdom's "special role" vis-a-vis Muslim holy places in Arab East Jerusalem. The King explained that this provision was designed to cover any gap in sovereignty in Jerusalem until such time Palestinians and Israelis negotiate and reach a final agreement on the future of the Holy City.

The King told the Council of Ministers meeting on Saturday that the Palestinians had not made their stand clear on the Holy City and Jordan's role.

However, the King instructed the government to extend whatever help possible to the Palestinians and reiterated Jordan's firm support for the Palestinians' quest for their full rights on their national soil.

The King also said Jordan stood ready to coordinate fully on every step with the Palestinians to confront the threats to the Middle East peace process.

King assures ex-servicemen of attention on their needs

(Continued from page 1)

agreed with the government that this question has to be tackled within our own means," added the King.

Referring to the idea of creating clubs for the servicemen, the King said: "We will begin establishing such clubs in all governorates. Our main concern will be to create jobs for our men. But we have also to discuss the question of providing qualification and training to our serving officers and soldiers preparing them for jobs after the termination of their service with the Armed Forces, jobs that are demanded by the labour market in Jordan and abroad."

"All these matters should be studied carefully and should be discussed with the government through a committee representing the servicemen so that our work will bear fruit," the King said.

He said that though he appreciated the servicemen's contribution to the nation and efforts for the country he reminded the audience that "nothing is so easy as we are not sitting on the world's treasures but despite that we are defending our lands and our nation with our souls and whatever resources available at our disposal."

He assured the audience that the government will be giving priority to their demands and affairs and we will embark on discussing these issues soon with the help of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Netanyahu coalition wavering

(Continued from page 1)

tunnel, which runs alongside the main Islamic shrines in Jerusalem. Television stations broadcast footage of Shas' clearly distraught leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, meeting with Mr. Peres and later with Mr. Netanyahu in his sukkah — the makeshift hut where observant Jews sit during this week's Sukkot holiday as a reminder of their forefathers' wanderings in the desert.

The report said Shas would support a move to bring Mr. Peres' Labour Party into the government, but had not yet decided whether to impose the move on Mr. Netanyahu.

With 10 out of 120 Knesset seats, Shas is critical to Mr. Netanyahu's 65-member coalition. But while the rabbi that head the party are moderate, the party's mostly low-income constituency strongly supported hardliner Netanyahu in the May election.

Mr. Peres said he was "fairly sceptical" Mr. Netanyahu was interested in a broad-based government. Labour lawmaker Yossi Beilin said Mr. Netanyahu would have to virtually adopt Labour's peace platform to make the move possible — an unlikely prospect.

Israelis reopen Jerusalem tunnel

(Continued from page 1)

The fighting subsided over the weekend, with no one killed Saturday. However, Israeli army commanders said the situation was too volatile and troops tightened their grip on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Tanks encircled the Gaza Strip and autonomous enclaves in the west Bank. Two dozen tanks were lined up in a field just outside the town of nabulus, only 300 meters away from Palestinian homes.

The tanks were deployed in an Israeli-controlled area. However, Israeli reports said the army had a contingency plan to retake Palestinian towns should the violence escalate. Israel handed two-thirds of the Gaza Strip and seven West Bank towns to Palestinian control in 1994 and 1995.

Troops also set up fresh roadblocks. Saturday around each West Bank town, barring Palestinians from leaving their communities.

A similarly stringent travel ban was imposed after four suicide bombings in Israel in February and March. For several days in the spring, Palestinians were under town arrest and since Feb. 25, most of the two million people of the west bank and Gaza have been barred from Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu's security advisers on Sunday issued warnings of possible fresh suicide bombings by the militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Egypt meanwhile renewed its call on Mr. Netanyahu to reconsider the opening of the tunnel.

Prime Minister Kamal Al-Ganzoury told reporters that Mr. Netanyahu's measures were unacceptable to Egypt and the world.

"We ask that the Israeli prime minister reconsider all recent measures taken in the Palestinian lands and the Al Aqsa Mosque, and return to the road of peace," Mr. Ganzoury was quoted as saying by Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

IMF liquidity 'red line' to be reached next year, says managing director

WASHINGTON (AFP) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus has warned that his fund's liquidity reserves would reach a "red line" next year, adding that funding would have to be increased "pretty soon."

The IMF currently has a capital basis of some 140 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR) (\$193 bil-

lion), Mr. Camdessus told a news conference.

But despite this "solid capital basis," the fund's liquidity ratio "must be kept very high" so that central banks have no doubt as to the IMF's ability to intervene effectively in a crisis, Mr. Camdessus said.

Next year, the liquidity ratio (the ratio between available funds and committed loans) would drop to

70 per cent, a level which the director termed a "red line."

"This means that members must proceed with an increase in quotas," he added.

Mr. Camdessus favours a doubling of present day quotas, but suggested that a "substantial increase" of between 50 and 100 per cent would be acceptable. Increased IMF funding

was needed to help with the globalisation of the world economy, Mr. Camdessus said, adding that as of Sept. 20, a total of 60 countries out of a membership of 180 were receiving IMF loans.

Fund disbursements in 1989 reached 2.6 billion SDRs. For the financial year ending next April, they would amount to 12.3 billion SDRs, he said.

JCO to transfer JD15m of loans to agricultural corporation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State Mifteh Ruheimi Sunday emphasised the importance of the cooperative sector in Jordan, despite the severe crisis that plagued the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

The minister, who was speaking at a press conference, highlighted the need

to reconstruct the cooperative movement by securing the repayment of the JCO loans through several mechanisms.

The main steps, the minister said, were to transfer the loans totalling JD 15 million that are due to JCO to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and to

implement the cooperative organisation's laws.

Mr. Ruheimi reviewed the development of the cooperative movement in the Kingdom, pointing that the assets of the JCO are JD 120 million and that under its umbrella there are 800 cooperative societies.

Asia fears economic backlash from return of workers

COLOMBO (R) — Poor Asian countries heaved a collective sigh of relief Sunday following the United Arab Emirates' decision to extend a deadline for an estimated 200,000 illegal immigrants to legalise their stay or leave.

Saturday's extension of a Sept. 30 amnesty until Oct. 31 for illegal immigrant workers came as fears grew in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines that their return could harm economies and spawn social problems.

Remittances from maids and blue collar workers in the oil-rich Gulf states are the main source of foreign exchange for most of the nations, as well as the main income for their families back home.

"Our plan was that I would earn the money to build a house while my husband stayed back and looked after the children," said T.G. Lalitha shortly after arriving at the Colombo airport from Abu Dhabi. "Unfortunately, it was all a dream."

In Sri Lanka, where expatriate remittances have surpassed exports of tea and gemstones as the number one foreign exchange earner, officials were hoping for a quick resumption of the inflow of petto-dollars.

"I feel in a matter of months, most of them will go back," Nissanka Wijeratne, chairman of the Bureau of Foreign Employment, said. "They have contacts there, they speak the language and they have the

experience. They shouldn't have a problem going back."

Remittances from the 500,000 Sri Lankan workers in the Middle East are expected to contribute 47 billion rupees (\$839 million) to the country's coffers this year, up from 41 billion last year, Mr. Wijeratne said.

The income represents nearly six per cent of Sri Lanka's gross national product.

Officials in Bangladesh, which expects the return of more than 30,000 illegal workers, spoke of the need to send many back.

"We will definitely have to relocate as many people in other countries. We can't give up foreign employment because it is one of our main foreign exchange earners," a foreign ministry official said.

India's southern state of Kerala will be among the hardest hit with about 30,000 returning illegal workers joining the state's already massive unemployed list of five million.

"The post office economy of the state will be badly hit when remittances from the Gulf dwindle," said Kerala's planning board vice-chairman I.S. Gulati. Many Gulf workers from Kerala send their relatives money by postal orders payable at post offices.

Their remittances play a key role in the state's economic development that includes booming construction activity. "Land and real estate

prices are likely to crash in the near future," said a planning board official.

Indian officials estimate an annual drop of one billion rupees (\$28.20 million) in remittances from the Gulf in Kerala alone.

The Philippines, with about 10,000 of more than four million expatriate workers illegally staying in the Emirates, said it was moving to reduce its reliance on such uncertain income sources.

Manila officials said they were drawing up retraining programmes for returnees to help them get new jobs overseas and also absorb them into the economy.

The Philippines faces another possible exodus from Hong Kong where the fate of 140,000 Filipino maids would be in the hands of China at the end of next June when Britain is due to hand its colony back to Beijing.

"Our aim is to prepare them for their eventual reintegration into the economic mainstream so that as our economy expands, we are able to cut down our dependence on overseas workers' remittances," overseas workers welfare administrator Wilhelmina Soriano said.

The Philippines is projecting a \$7 billion inflow from its overseas workers this year, up from \$4.9 billion in 1995.

Bahrain to spend \$2.39b on development projects

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has an ambitious 900 million dinar (\$2.39 billion) plan to upgrade its infrastructure, a cabinet minister has said.

Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mutawae told Reuters the plan includes building a power plant at a cost of around \$600 million to meet growing demand.

He said a number of Arab investment funds would finance a new sea port at a proposed industrial area in Fidd, which would be linked with the main sea port of Mina Sulman by a bridge.

"The participation of Arab funds in Bahrain's new projects reflects their confidence in its economy," Mr. Mutawae added.

He did not name the funds or give further details.

Britain wants new IMF rules to open capital flows

WASHINGTON (R) — Britain Sunday demanded a change in International Monetary Fund (IMF) rules to oblige developing countries to open up their economies to foreign capital.

"I firmly believe that the (IMF's) articles need revision," Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told the IMF Interim Committee meeting.

"The present articles in fact permit — and in some cases even encourage — countries to impose controls on capital account transactions. In today's world that must be wrong," Mr. Clarke said.

He argued that changes were crucial in a world where free, international flows of capital were seen as a good thing.

"It lets capital go where it produces the greatest return. It sharpens the incentives to save and invest... Ultimately, free international flows of capital help to maximise world growth. Everyone stands to benefit," Mr. Clarke said.

"In a world of large-scale private capital flows, all the international institutions will need to respond with new rules to encourage confidence amongst investors," he stressed.

The issue has sparked heated debate among developing countries. While many of them welcome the promise of greater private investment, they are also deeply worried the money could leave just as quickly, scarring their economies.

Mr. Clarke said he realised that the international community needed to help emerging economies deal with the consequences of capital flows.

"As (they)... liberalise capital transactions, they need to strengthen bank supervision and financial regulation," he said, acknowledging that without the right policies inflows could fuel inflation and worsen current account deficits.

Domestic financial systems must be well-supervised, inflows should not be allowed to spark too much domestic demand and fiscal policy may have to be tightened.

The funds coming in from abroad should not act as a substitute for domestic savings and exchange rate policies had to be realistic.

However, for the less developed economies, some sort of controls could help prevent a rush of money leaving but should be only short-term.

"In the longer term, capital controls cannot substitute for sound macro-economic management and structural reform," Mr. Clarke added.

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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PHOWE
ECHLE
MANCEP
YARBET

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YACHT TULLE JOCKEY PONCHO
Answer: What he liked to sing while playing baseball — A "CATCH-Y-TUNE"

Now you can play Jumble with family and friends. Look for the new Jumble game, Jumble Plus from Hasbro, at your favorite store. Call 1-800-421-6428 for store locations.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS

- 1 Completely absorbed
- 5 Capital of Morocco
- 10 Strikebreaker
- 14 Winglike
- 15 "Aids"
- 16 Forearm bone
- 17 — Contender
- 18 Severe
- 19 Hideaway
- 20 Ancient oracle's seat
- 22 Observe the tempo
- 24 Hebrides island
- 26 Embarrassed
- 27 Sinatra or Reagan
- 30 A Taylor ex
- 32 Conceit
- 33 — impasse (stalled)
- 35 Type of information
- 39 Hammerstein/Kern song
- 40 Muslim faith
- 42 Engine part
- 43 Type of bicycle
- 46 "— a Song Go Out..."
- 48 Yale student
- 49 Turns outward
- 51 Balance sheet entry
- 53 List in detail
- 56 Gumbo
- 58 Bank vault device
- 60 Made, after expenses
- 64 Vigoda and Burrows
- 65 Innocent
- 67 Unique
- 68 Legal right
- 69 "Dallas" first name
- 70 "I cannot tell —"
- 71 Maneuverable, nautically
- 72 Sailors' clothing
- 73 Type of show

DOWN

- 1 Author Ayn
- 2 African plant
- 3 Cloy
- 4 — of Capricorn
- 5 Vamish
- 6 Likely
- 7 Bird's bill
- 8 State of being behind: var.
- 9 Requires patience
- 10 Powerful persons
- 11 Assert
- 12 Vamish
- 13 Exposed
- 21 Georgetown nickname
- 23 Loudness measure
- 25 Desert garments
- 27 Gingrich
- 28 Turkish general
- 29 Midday
- 31 Dark
- 34 EST and CST designations
- 36 Frozen desserts
- 37 Valley
- 38 Give off
- 41 In addition to
- 44 Manorial land
- 45 Satanic
- 47 Biblical weed
- 50 Bring back
- 52 Petty ruler
- 53 Boot country
- 54 Leg bone
- 55 Arabian prince
- 57 Places for
- 59 1,000 grams
- 61 Story
- 62 Ashtabula waterfront
- 63 Profound
- 66 Bigwig

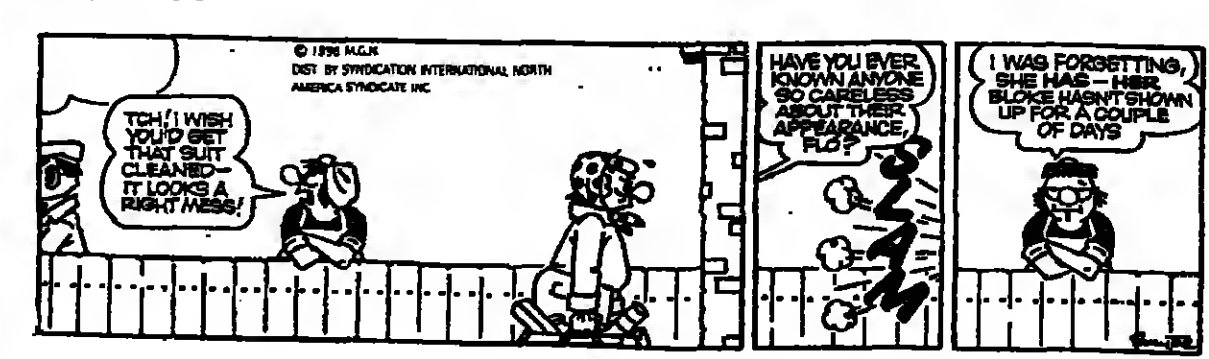
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use tact in dealing with influential people today. The evening looks good for enjoying close friend's company and thereby make a good business contact, which is helpful in completing one project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be more modern in handling credit and career affairs today and you get far better results than usual. Later this evening will be a good time for you to consult with a bigwig and thereby make progress in your career activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) It would be wise not to take on any added obligations today or you could stretch yourself to thin to be effective in the days ahead. Later this evening will be a good time to go out on the town with your mate for some romance.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your fellow associate may want you to do something today which is not to your best interests, so oppose this. Later tonight you can get together with close friends for a good time out on the town and have some fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan how to get modern fellow associates to assist you more on some project and you can make yourself highly successful. Don't get bogged down with your career activities and thereby miss out on fun activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get into the interests today which can bring greater progress and thereby become more successful. Be more cooperative with your fellow associates later this evening on a new project and make some real progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study your finest talents today and make the most of them in achieving your goals. Entertaining looks good later this evening, however don't do it in the home or you could find a real mess to contend with in the days ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure you are careful today in writings and state your true meaning with correspondence and all other forms of communication. Take time out later this evening to improve your home and make it more comfortable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take care you are not being fooled in some practical matter today and be sure to get your ideas across to others who can make you successful. Later this evening will be good for going out on the town with close friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your ideas may not seem to be so good today, however those who are practical can help you put them across in a succinct manner. Later this evening will be good for you and your mate to have a romantic time together.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't permit personal anxiety to keep you today from accomplishing profitable outside matters well. Later tonight you can meet with a successful person and pick his or her brain for good suggestion on how to be prosperous.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Avoid one today who has a strange idea to put forth to you or you could find yourself in a great difficulty. Be with the person you most admire later this evening so you can put forth the basis for some new project.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire, Lapis Lazuli.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The phosphoric and sulphuric acid plant being built in Shidiyeh by an Indian-Jordanian joint venture has entered the commissioning stage, with production expected to begin by May 1997, the company announced Sunday.

The output of the Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company Limited is expected at 220,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, which will be exported to India. At present market prices this would mean a turnover of \$80 million, the company said in a press release.

The plant represents a major breakthrough for Jordan's efforts to focus on producing fertiliser-related products rather than exporting raw materials, mainly rock phosphates, in line with a shifting trend in the international market.

The \$170 million plant at Shidiyeh, which is designated by the government as a free zone, is the first major industrial venture involving Jordanian and Indian companies.

A Japanese-Jordanian joint venture is building a plant to produce compound fertilisers, also in the south. The entire output of that facility will be exported to Japan.

The \$70 million capital of the Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company is shared by India's SPIC, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and a Saudi Arabia-based Arab investment group, TAIC.

The rest of the project cost has been raised in long-term loans from the International Finance Corporation (\$30 million), Credit Commercial de France (\$54 million), the Netherlands Development Finance Company and ANZ Grindlays Bank (\$6 million).

French contractor Krebs is building the plant plus associated facilities. These include a 700 tonne per day phosphoric acid plant (annual production 220,000 tonnes), a 2,000 tonne per day sulphuric acid plant (annual production 690,000 tonnes) to be used entirely for processing within the facility), and associated off sites and utilities including a storage terminal at Agaba port.

Raw material for the plant, rock phosphates, will be supplied by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

"The project is based on well-renowned process technologies that yield best-quality products with added advantage of cost saving and water conservation, which are of utmost significance specifically to the units set up in countries like Jordan," the company's statement said.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Director-General Samih Madani, who is also chairman of the Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company Limited, launched the commissioning process of the plant in September by energising the main electrical substation and inaugurated a water system, the company said.

"The project has made an overall progress of 75 per cent and is expected to go on stream by May 1997," it said.

"The design concept of the phosphoric acid plant is fairly unique in that it has certain special features not conceived in other such plants elsewhere in the world," according to the company, which added that it expects a "very high onstream efficiency as well as onstream factor."

Assuming that the plant facilities materialise "the way the company has conceived the same, this would serve as model plant for such future facilities."

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	NZD	FRF
US Dollar	1.5265	1.2555	110.80	1.3620	1521.80	1.7102	5.1810		
DE Mark	0.6591		0.4173	0.8224	72.58	0.8817	966.14	1.1202	3.3737
GB Sterling	1.5650	1.5950		1.9646	173.35	2.1315	2381.30	2.8765	6.0813
CH Franc	0.7885	321.49	0.5076		88.23	1.0840	1210.98	136.16	4.0985
JP Yen	0.0080	1.3765	0.5751	1.1321		1.2281	13.72	154.21	4.6447
CA Dollar	0.7342	1.1035	0.4696	0.9052	1.23		1115.32	1.2366	3.7861
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0027	0.4189	0.0825	1374.65	0.8947		11.23	3.3836
NL Guilder	0.5647	89.22	0.3728	73.41	64.75	0.7961	868.36		3.0107
FR Franc	0.1941	0.2962	0.1238	24.3644	21.49	0.2643	33.19	33.1900	

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	24.25	23.45
WTI	24.55	24.00
Bony	24.25	23.45
Dubai	20.50	20.85
UL Gas	197.00	196.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2886	0.4073	0.17038	0.33504	26.5709
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.41809	0.17406	0.34226	30.2097
KW Dinar	0.33344	0.50424	0.21303	0.41838	388.622
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.51686	0.21842	0.43333	294.204
CY Pound	2.1344	3.2562	1.3812	2.6797	236.492

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (ozs)	380.4	380.9
Silver (ozs)	4.91	4.93
Platinum (ozs)	384.25	385.25
Al (3 Months) #N/A DR	N/A ORF	
Cu (3 Months) #N/A DR	N/A ORF	
Zinc (3 Months) #N/A DR	N/A ORF	
Lead (3 Months) #N/A DR	N/A ORF	
NI (3 Months) #N/A DR	N/A ORF	

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period	1	3	6	9	1
Cncy	Month	Month	Month	Month	Year
USD	5.31	5.50	5.82	5.78	5.87
GBP	5.54	5.64	5.86	5.75	5.91
JPY	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.49	0.62
DEM	3.00	3.03	3.06	3.11	2.93
FRF	3.40	3.43	3.50	3.57	3.61
CHF	1.21	1.25	1.40	1.43	1.50
ITL	8.00	7.87	7.78	7.71	7.62

Main Equity Indices

Index	Value	Chg	% Chg	High	Low	P. Chg	
New York	DOW JONES	5872.92	4.07	0.07	5875.62	5845.18	5868.85
New York	S&P 500	686.19	0.33	0.05	687.11	683.73	685.86
London	FT-SE 100	3946.4	13.2	0.34	3954.8	3936.5	3933.2
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	21547.02	85.85	0.4	21803.9	21422.9	21481.4
Paris	CAC 40	2107.05	2.91	0.14	2111.95	2094.37	2104.14
Frankfurt	DAX	2659.04	7.51	-0.28	2664.84	2655.38	2668.55

Energy

Commodity	Last	Difference
Coffee (c/lbs)	111.75	Spot
Cocoa (c/ton)	1434	Spot
Sugar (c/ton)	334	Spot
Wheat (c/ton)	153	Spot
Soyas (c/lbs)	23.25	Spot
Tee (c/lbs)	718	Spot
Barley (c/ton)	2.71	Spot
Rice (c/ton)	265	Spot

JOB RATES

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1069	1.1124
DE Mark	0.4641	0.4664
CH Franc	0.5631	0.5659
FR Franc	0.1373	0.138
JP Yen	0.0638	0.06412
NL Guilder	0.4136	0.4157
IT Lira	0.4658	0.4679

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

DOCSING BANK CENTER AMMAN JORDAN

TELEPHONE: 60171 / 60172

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 29/09/1996

INDEX	12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S BANK	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
252.000	705.300	ARAB BANK	13.2	1.45	21	200	128.00	127.00	-0.05
1.720	4.280	CACAO ARAB BANK	9.2	3.41	7	20000	48.00	47.50	-0.05
1.320	1.860	MO. EAST TRV. BK.	72.9	6.18	6	1000	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5.300	4.250	THE HOUSING	13.0	0.20	60	32000	1.00	1.00	0.00
3.010	2.600	JOR. KOWATZ BANK	29.6	0.04	4	189	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.320	890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.6	0.46	0	3200	0.01	0.01	0.00
4.800	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	12.3	0.02	0	1334	0.01	0.01	0.00
3.930	1.530	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	7	0.00	2	300	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.090	1.000	PARADEL. INV. BK.	0	0.00	4	11750	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.650	1.000	PARADEL. INV. BK.	0	0.00	15	7050	0.01	0.01	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
1.740	1.440	JOR. A. VET. & PHAR.	21.3	7.55	24	11884	188.00	187.00	-0.05
1.400	1.210	JOR. A. VET. & PHAR.	9.7	6.18	2	1400	1.00	1.00	0.00
7.090	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	18	5277	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.120	0.860	REAL ESTATE INV.	19.8	0.27	3	1020	0.01	0.01	0.00
3.420	1.720	MO. EAST TRV. BK.	72.9	0.00	2	851	1.00	1.00	0.00
3.660	3.110	ARAB INTL. DEV. & INV.	13.6	0.01	7	6251	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.360	0.960	PARADEL. INV. BK.	0	0.00	1	1200	0.01	0.01	0.00
2.430	1.710	UNIFIED CO.	9.7	5.43	3	700	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.200	0.820	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	1	230	0.01	0.01	0.00
SERVICES SECTOR TOTALS									
3.770	3.060	JOR. CREDIT PAC.	19.0	3.00	8	1348	652.00	651.00	-0.05
3.550	2.710	JOR. PROPERTIES	14.4	0.00	7	13288	424.00	423.00	-0.05
8.960	4.780	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	6	652	3553.00	3552.00	-0.05
10.250	0.720	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	8.60	3	677	944.75	943.00	-0.05
2.590	2.150	MO. EAST TRV. BK.	72.9	0.00	3	590	1.00	1.00	0.00
4.900	3.100	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	17	1840	96.00	95.00	-0.05
8.400	4.660	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	4	104	1204.00	1203.00	-0.05
9.000	2.960	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	4	104	1204.00	1203.00	-0.05
5.800	3.120	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	1	1036	4954.00	4953.00	-0.05
1.960	1.050	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0	0.00	28	121200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.320	1.050	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	2	500	1.00	1.00	0.00
1.100	0.880	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	1200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.840	1.040	INTERMED. PETRO. CHM.	9.5	9.13	7	12050	767.00	766.00	-0.05
1.150	0.840	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	3	500	566.00	565.00	-0.05
3.350	2.280	CHIF. CHM. IND.	74.6	0.00	19	1850	3250.00	3249.00	-0.05
4.700	4.200	ALACIS CO.	22.5	2.86	1	100	403.00	402.00	-0.05
4.350	2.900	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	1	400	1729.00	1728.00	-0.05
1.460	0.840	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	1	1250	1234.00	1233.00	-0.05
3.280	1.670	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	1	2100	0.01	0.01	0.00
7.700	1.140	JOR. TRADING CO.	16.6	0.00	14	15353	276.17	276.14	-0.03
1.610	0.910	JOR. TRADING CO.	16.6	0.00	13	8308	4544.00	4543.00	-0.05
2.440	1.740	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	1	1200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.490	1.090	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	22	14500	1935.00	1934.00	-0.05
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
3.770	3.060	JOR. CREDIT PAC.	19.0	3.00	8	1348	652.00	651.00	-0.05
3.550	2.710	JOR. PROPERTIES	14.4	0.00	7	13288	424.00	423.00	-0.05
8.960	4.780	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	6	652	3553.00	3552.00	-0.05
10.250	0.720	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	8.60	3	677	944.75	943.00	-0.05
2.590	2.150	MO. EAST TRV. BK.	72.9	0.00	3	590	1.00	1.00	0.00
4.900	3.100	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	17	1840	96.00	95.00	-0.05
8.400	4.660	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	4	104	1204.00	1203.00	-0.05
9.000	2.960	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	4	104	1204.00	1203.00	-0.05
5.800	3.120	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	1	1036	4954.00	4953.00	-0.05
1.960	1.050	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0	0.00	28	121200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.320	1.050	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	2	500	1.00	1.00	0.00
1.100	0.880	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	1200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.840	1.040	INTERMED. PETRO. CHM.	9.5	9.13	7	12050	767.00	766.00	-0.05
1.150	0.840	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	3	500	566.00	565.00	-0.05
3.350	2.280	CHIF. CHM. IND.	74.6	0.00	19	1850	3250.00	3249.00	-0.05
4.700	4.200	ALACIS CO.	22.5	2.86	1	100	403.00	402.00	-0.05
4.350	2.900	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	1	400	1729.00	1728.00	-0.05
1.460	0.840	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	1	1250	1234.00	1233.00	-0.05
3.280	1.670	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	1	2100	0.01	0.01	0.00
7.700	1.140	JOR. TRADING CO.	16.6	0.00	14	15353	276.17	276.14	-0.03
1.610	0.910	JOR. TRADING CO.	16.6	0.00	13	8308	4544.00	4543.00	-0.05
2.440	1.740	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	1	1200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.490	1.090	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	22	14500	1935.00	1934.00	-0.05
GRAND TOTAL									
3.770	3.060	JOR. CREDIT PAC.	19.0	3.00	8	1348	652.00	651.00	-0.05
3.550	2.710	JOR. PROPERTIES	14.4	0.00	7	13288	424.00	423.00	-0.05
8.960	4.780	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	6	652	3553.00	3552.00	-0.05
10.250	0.720	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	8.60	3	677	944.75	943.00	-0.05
2.590	2.150	MO. EAST TRV. BK.	72.9	0.00	3	590	1.00	1.00	0.00
4.900	3.100	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	17	1840	96.00	95.00	-0.05
8.400	4.660	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	4	104	1204.00	1203.00	-0.05
9.000	2.960	JOR. TRADING CO.	9.4	4.11	4	104	1204.00	1203.00	-0.05
5.800	3.120	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	1	1036	4954.00	4953.00	-0.05
1.960	1.050	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0	0.00	28	121200	0.01	0.01	0.00
1.320	1.050	ARAB TRADING CO.	16.6	3.64	2	500	1.00	1.00	0.00
1.100	0.880	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	1200			

Sheikh in ultimate tribute as Dettori makes history

LONDON (R) — As exuberant Italian jockey Frankie Dettori made racing history at Ascot, the world's most powerful racehorse owner paid him the ultimate tribute.

"He is the best jockey I have ever seen," Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed said of the rider whose talent and ebullience have transformed the staid world of British horse racing. Bookmakers lost an estimated £18 million (\$28 million) and 30 of their shops face possible closure after Dettori went through the card at Ascot's fiercely competitive festival of racing on Saturday to land all seven races at cumulative odds of over 25,000-1. It was an extraordinary feat that surpassed the triumphs of racing legends Lester Piggott and Sir Gordon Richards.

The champion jockey went wild after his magnificent seven. Ignoring requests from the Ascot stewards on safety grounds, he leapt off his race winners with the famous flying dismount he copied from U.S. Ace Angel Cordero. He kissed a woman TV commentator and sprayed the crowd with champagne. "Don't touch me, I'm on fire," the supercharged 25-year-old joked as everyone patted him on the back. For the Prince of Pazz, this was a racing coronation.

Dettori, the son of 13-times Italian champion Gianfranco, rode his first winner in Turin 10 years ago. His compatriot, Luca Cumani, took the raw young apprentice under his wing in Newmarket, headquarters of British racing.

Dettori's rise to fame was more gradual than meteoric in his first few difficult seasons.

But by 1990, his natural talent was shining through. He became the first teenager since Piggott to ride 100 winners in a season. Since then he has won five British classics and twice been champion jockey.

This season has been an emotional roller-coaster for Dettori.

He landed the 2,000 Guineas by the narrowest of mar-

Dettori's winning run comes to an end

ASCOT (R) — Frankie Dettori's historic winning run came to an end in the first race Sunday when he could only finish a well-beaten fourth on Sunbeam Dance.

On Saturday, Dettori won all seven races on the card at cumulative odds of over 25,000-1.

Dettori made the early running on Sunbeam Dance, a 7-2 shot, but it was clear from over a furlong (200 metres) out he would not be making it eight out of eight.

The race went to 9-2 Chance Kahal, ridden by Richard Hills for trainer Ed Dunlop.

The defeat ended Dettori's chance of chasing a record set in August 1933 by Sir Gordon Richards who rode 12 winners in succession, spread over three days.

gins on Mark of Esteem but faced fines and suspension for excessive use of the whip and leaping from the saddle before he had reached the unsaddling enclosure.

Then in June he broke his arm in an accident that put paid to his chances of landing the jockeys' title again. Since then he has suffered three more bans. He only just returned from the latest suspension on Friday.

But nothing can wipe away the widest grin in British racing and Dettori is unrepentant.

"Some people don't like me leaping off, but for me it's just a natural reaction. I feel great and I want to show it," said the showman from Milan.

"I'm Italian and I like to show my feelings unlike a lot of people from this country who are more reserved."

Morceli to attempt 3 world records in '97

PARIS (R) — Algeria's Olympic and world 1,500 metres champion Noureddine Morceli said Saturday he planned to attack the world 1,500, 2,000 and 3,000 metre records next year.

Morceli, 26, already holds the world 1,500 and 2,000 marks as well as the mile record but lost his 3,000 best to Kenyan Daniel Komen this year.

In a news conference in Algiers reported by the official Algerian news agency aps, Morceli said he did not think he was ready yet to tackle the 5,000 record.

"I have the capacity to run the 1,500 metres in three minutes 24 seconds or three minutes 25, and the 3,000 in seven minutes 18 or 19 seconds," Morceli said.

"I am still young and I am able to take other titles and achieve other records."

Chang aims to do a Borg in Asia

SINGAPORE (AFP) — World number two Michael Chang, gunning for his 11th title in Asia, said Sunday that he hopes to inspire a tennis revolution in the region much as former great Bjorn Borg did in Sweden in the 1970s.

"A player named Bjorn Borg stirred up things for tennis in Sweden," Chang said a day before the start of the \$414,500 Heineken Open, southeast Asia's richest tennis tournament, at the Singapore indoor stadium.

"Hopefully, it would be nice to do the same for Asia," the 24-year-old U.S. Open finalist told reporters.

Borg's success, including five straight Wimbledon titles, made him a role model for a generation of players including Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, and helped turn Sweden into a tennis power.

Chang, an ethnic Chinese and an American citizen, is arguably the most popular player in Asia and he hopes his success will inspire young Asians to take up the sport.

He launched here "Michael's friends," the first official Chang fan club, to promote the sport.

"I think that the only thing that stops Asian players from becoming great tennis players is that they haven't tried the game," said Chang.

"To me it doesn't make sense for them to do so well in table tennis and badminton and not do so well in tennis."

Chang has enjoyed a remarkable run in 1996, reaching the final of the Australian Open in January and the U.S. open three weeks ago — the only player this year to

make two grand slam finals.

He has won three titles and crowned it with a career-high world ranking of number two.

"This has been a good year and it's looking bright for the future," Chang said. "It is a good confidence booster and makes me strive for the number one ranking, and the next Grand Slam won't be too far away."

However, he said the year paled in comparison to 1989 when he won his only Grand Slam at the French Open.

Chang, who will be playing for the first time in Singapore in an official ATP Tour event, will be out to add to the 10 career titles he has so far won in Asia — a record unmatched by any other player.

Seeded to meet him in the final is Richard Krajicek, this year's Wimbledon winner who has a 3-2 edge over Chang from five previous clashes.

Both Chang and Krajicek were given safe starts here, with Chang drawn to play 103-ranked Dennis Van Scheppingen, a rookie from the Netherlands, and Krajicek playing Italian qualifier Nicola Pietrangeli.

The toughest first round match will see Pat Rafter of Australia against Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, with the winner likely to face Krajicek in the second round.

Orioles clinch wild card; Padres reach playoffs with win over Dodgers

TORONTO (R) — Roberto Alomar, playing while appealing a five-game suspension, hit a two-out solo homer in the top of the 10th inning as the Baltimore Orioles claimed the American League wild card with a 3-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays Saturday.

The Orioles secured their first post-season berth since 1983, when they won the World Series against the Phillies. "I can appreciate it more now having gone through years of rebuilding, but this is just the first step," said Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken. "The playoffs is what we are all here for."

Baltimore will host the first two games of the best-of-five division series against the Cleveland Indians starting on Tuesday. Alomar, ejected Friday by umpire John Hirschbeck for arguing balls and strikes, bumped and spit on the UMP. Afterwards, Alomar said Hirschbeck has become "more bitter" because of personal problems, including the death of a son.

Hirschbeck ran into the Orioles' locker room Saturday after learning of Alomar's remarks, yelling at the Baltimore second baseman before being led away by a fellow umpire. He did not work the game, which was played with three umpires.

In Boston, Mike Aldrete hit a two-run homer and four relievers allowed one run over seven innings to give the New York Yankees a 4-2 victory over the Red Sox.

With the Yankees having already clinched the American League East, starter Andy Pettitte was removed after giving up one unearned run and two hits in the first two innings. Ramiro Mendoza (4-5) limited the Red Sox to three hits over four scoreless innings for the win. Brian Boehringer worked a perfect seventh and Mariano Rivera allowed a run in the eighth despite striking out the side. John Wetteland gave up two hits in the ninth but got his league-leading 43rd save.

Roger Clemens (10-13), in possibly his final start with Boston, remained tied with Cy Young for first place on the Red Sox all-

time win list with 192. He gave up four runs and five hits with four walks and 10 strikeouts over 7 2/3 innings.

In Kansas City, Sandy Alomar homered to break a seventh-inning tie and the Indians moved within one win of their second straight 100-win season by beating the Kansas City Royals 5-4.

The N.L. Central winners have won six of their last seven games and need a victory over Kansas City on Sunday to become the first team since the 1979-80 Orioles to post back-to-back 100-win seasons.

At Texas, Darren Oliver allowed one run over six innings for his fourth straight win and Luis Ortiz and Damon Buford each homered as the West Division champion Rangers fielded their second team and defeated the California Angels, 4-3.

In Detroit, Cal Eldred allowed two hits over six shutout innings and Jeff Cirillo, Dave Nilsson and Matt Mieske each drove in two runs as the Milwaukee Brewers handed the Tigers a club record-extending 16th consecutive home loss, 7-2.

Detroit has lost five in a row overall to run its season total to 108, also a franchise record. It is the most losses in the major leagues since Toronto lost 109 in 1979.

In Oakland, Andy Sheets' double with one out in the 10th scored Joey Cora with the go-ahead run as the Seattle Mariners beat the Athletics 5-3.

The A's Terry Steinbach cracked his 35th homer, his 34th as a catcher, breaking the American League single-season record for homers by a catcher previously held by Carlton Fisk, who hit 33 for the White Sox in 1985.

At Minnesota, Pat Meares' bases-loaded single with none out in the bottom of the ninth scored Denny Hocking and lifted the Twins to a 7-6 win over the Chicago White Sox.

Two down, one to go. The San Diego Padres clinched their first playoff berth in 12 years and reduced the National



The Los Angeles Dodgers' pitcher Hideo Nomo winds up against the San Diego Padres. In Los Angeles, Nomo was pulled in the seventh inning after throwing 120 pitches with 65 strikes in the Dodgers 4-2 loss (Reuters photo)

League West race to a one-game showdown by winning the second leg of a possible three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers, 4-2 on Saturday.

Tony Gwynn's two-run single in the eighth inning was the difference as the Padres, who came into the series Friday three games behind Los Angeles, secured at least a wild-card spot and eliminated the Montreal Expos from the post-season.

San Diego could win the NL West Sunday by completing the sweep.

"We have a big game tomorrow," said Padres manager Bruce Bochy.

"You talk about this in spring training and you play 162 games and it just comes down to one."

Starter Hideo Nomo held the Padres to two hits over five innings as Los Angeles took a 2-0 lead. But Steve Finley homered leading off the sixth and Ken Caminiti and Wally Joyner singled before Chris Gomez tied it with an RBI double.

San Diego took the lead in the eighth off reliever Darren Dreifort (1-4). Jordy Reed hit a two-out single, pinch-hitter Greg Vaughn reached on an infield single and Ricky Henderson walked to load the bases. Gwynn followed with a sin-

gle to left, bringing home Reed and Vaughn with the go-ahead runs.

"Tony Gwynn comes through in those situations all the time," said Finley.

Four pitchers held the Dodgers to five hits. Andy Ashby started and Tim Worrell (9-7) pitched two hitless innings for his second win in as many games. Trevor Hoffman worked the ninth for his 41st save.

The Dodgers scored in the first and third on RBI singles by Delino Deshields and Mike Piazza.

At Colorado, Kim Batiste hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the fifth and Glenallen Hill and Jacob

Cruz added two RBI apiece, leading the San Francisco Giants to an 8-5 victory over the Rockies.

Ellis Burks stole his 32nd base in the third inning, making the Rockies the first team in history to record 200 homers and 200 steals in the same season.

Burks hit his 40th home run in the eighth to join Hank Aaron as the only Major Leaguers with 200 hits, 40 homers and 30 stolen bases in the same season.

In St. Louis, Denny Jacobson allowed one hit over seven innings and helped his own cause with an RBI double as the Cardinals defeated the Cincinnati Reds 5-2 before 52,876 fans on Ozzie Smith day.

Jackson (1-1), who retired the first 14 batters before Brook Fordyce reached on an error by Luis Alicea with two out in the fifth, allowed a seventh-inning single to Hal Morris, who extending his hitting streak to 28 games. Jackson fanned six and did not walk a batter.

In Montreal, Jermaine Dye and Mike Mordecai hit solo homers and five pitchers combined on a six-hitter to power the World Series and NL East champion Atlanta Braves to a 4-0 victory over the Expos.

Greg Maddux tuned up for the playoffs by allowing two hits in two innings. He finished second in the league with a 2.72 era, his highest since 1991, when he had a 3.35 mark with the Chicago Cubs.

In Chicago, Tony Womack atoned for his error in the bottom of the ninth with a run-scoring single in the 10th as the Pittsburgh Pirates blew a four-run lead in the ninth but edged the Cubs 8-7.

In Houston, Danny Darwin allowed five hits over seven innings and Orlando Miller homered to snap a seventh-inning tie as the Astros went on to a 5-1 victory over the Florida Marlins, who had their seven-game winning streak snapped.

In New York, Robert Person allowed five hits over eight innings and Butch Huskey's two-run double keyed a four-run seventh as the Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-2.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Coleman injury blow for Wales

LONDON (AFP) — Welsh manager Bobby Gould's World Cup qualifying plans suffered a further setback Sunday with the news that Blackburn defender Chris Coleman will be sidelined until early 1997. Coleman suffered a ruptured achilles tendon towards the end of Blackburn's 0-0 draw at Coventry on Saturday and underwent an operation Sunday. The 26-year-old centre-back is definitely ruled out of Wales' World Cup qualifier against Holland in Cardiff next Saturday. And he also seems certain to miss out on Wales' return match against the Dutch on November 9 and the home game against Turkey on December 14. Gould is already without the suspended Ryan Giggs for the Holland game and the loss of Coleman is another setback.

McGrath desperate to leave Villa

LONDON (AFP) — Paul McGrath the Aston Villa and Republic of Ireland central defender explained Sunday he is desperate to leave the club and is prepared to pay back his signing on fee for this season. "The republic's most capped player, who signed a new one-year contract in the summer, will take this unusual step if manager Brian Little will allow him to leave. A great servant of the club since coming from Manchester United in 1989, McGrath is angered by the 200,000-pound (\$350,000) transfer fee placed on his head which recently averted the interest of Coventry City."

Muster heads cast in Lyon

LYON (AFP) — Top seed Thomas Muster of Austria, Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, and Marcelo Rios of Chile represent the world's top 10 players in next week's \$750,000 ATP event here. World No. 3 Muster and French Open champion Kafelnikov play American Chris Woodruff and Czech Daniel Vacek respectively in their first match. Defending champion Ferreira, however, was set to meet a qualifier. Meanwhile, Sweden's 19th-ranked Stefan Edberg and Germany's 1991 Wimbledon champion Michael Stich open their campaigns against Italy's Renzo Furlan and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland. However, in the week before the event, 11th-ranked American Jim Courier had to pull out with a knee injury and three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of Germany followed suit with tendinitis in his right wrist.

China takes Asian gymnastics gold

BEIJING (AFP) — China won four of the six gold medals up for grabs on the second day of the Asian gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics championships. XINHUA reported Sunday. Mao Yangling won the all-around men's gymnastics competition with a score of 39.200, while compatriot Chen Mi came top in the junior women's all-around competition with 37.460 points. China's women's gymnastics team won the senior women's title with a score of 117.050 and Zhou Xiaojing beat his rivals in the all-around rhythmic gymnastics competition with 37.764 points. Japan won the other two gold medals on offer Saturday.

Kenyan runners do the double

EDINBURGH (AFP) — Kenyan compatriots Christophere Kelong and Raphael Nziku staged a sprint finish in the great Caledonian 10km run on Sunday to reconfirm their country's dominance at distance running. Kelong was deemed to have beaten Nziku though the two Africans shared the winning time of 29 minutes 11 seconds.

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Russia tightens hold on chess gold

YEREVAN (AFP) — Russia maintained its 3.5 point lead over its rivals after the 11th round of the Chess Olympiad despite being held to a 2-2 tie by a strong Ukraine team.

With just three rounds remaining, the Russian team, led by unofficial world champion Garry Kasparov, appeared certain to win the gold medal as its rivals jockeyed for the silver and bronze.

A cluster of five teams are tied in second place after Saturday's games, with two teams just half a point behind and another six other teams still in the chase a further half-point behind.

The best leading results came from Uzbekistan, Israel and England who won by 2.5-1.5 points against Hungary, China and Sweden respectively.

In the women's Olympiad, Georgia was well clear of the field with 24.5 points, with Ukraine trailing on 22.

Saturday's results for the leading teams were:

Uzbekistan - Hungary 2.5-1.5
Israel - China 2.5-1.5
England - Sweden 2.5-1.5
Russia - Ukraine 2-2
Georgia - Armenia 2-2
Bosnia-Herzegovina - Spain 2-2

The leading positions in the 127-strong field were:

1. Russia 31 points
2-6 Bulgaria, Israel, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan 27.5
7-8 Croatia, England 27
9-14. Armenia, Bosnia, China, Georgia, Hungary, Spain 26.5

Bastia still in touch as Papin draws a blank

PARIS (AFP) — Bastia consolidated their second place in the French first division on Saturday but failed to close the three-point gap on leaders Paris Saint Germain after the Corsicans could only draw 2-2 at Toulon.

In a game of fluctuating fortunes, Bastia had James Fullarton sent off and the league's top scorer Anton Drobnyak also missed a penalty for them.

Paris Saint Germain still hold a two-point lead over Bastia with a game in hand and play away to Guingamp on Sunday.

Former French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin meanwhile made his eagerly-awaited return with Bordeaux to Olympique Marseille, where he made his name, but failed to score in a goalless draw.

Papin had a mixed reception after last season's comments that former Marseille chairman Bernard Tapie had bought off two AC Milan players in their 1993 European Cup win.

Marseille created the better chances with former Oldham fullback Chris Makin creating two for striker Xavier Gravelaine, who found Belgian keeper Gilbert Bodart in fine form.

Nantes midfielder Frederic Da Rocha grabbed a last minute equaliser to give the struggling 1995 French champions a 3-3 draw at home to Rennes in the latest round of French Football League matches on Saturday.

Da Rocha's 90th minute equaliser, after Laurent Huard had scored Rennes third goal in the 39th minute, provided the climax to a frenetic match.

Rennes had twice gone behind to Nantes, who find themselves third from bottom with four points without a win, but a double strike by Stephane Guivarch brought them level.

Argentinian striker Javier Mazzoni and Nicolas Savinaud were Nantes other scorers.

Strasbourg striker David Zitelli took the individual scoring honours of the day with a second-half hat-trick in their 3-0 home win against Lille.

Elsewhere, champions Auxerre failed to make up significant ground on the leading pack after being held to a scoreless draw away at Montpellier, and were lucky to get a point after conceding 17 corners.

Early Pacesetters Lens continue to slide down the table as they failed to win for the fifth successive match, beaten 1-0 at home to Lyon.

Coruna topple Betis from league leadership

MADRID (AFP) — A 79th minute goal from Michel Madar Deportivo La Coruna's French striker gave them a 2-1 win over Real Betis and lifted them onto the top of the Spanish championship on Saturday.

Betis, leaders before the match, took a second minute lead with a Freekick from their Croatian midfielder Robert Jarni.

However, the 1995 Spanish Cup winners, heavily rebuilt in the summer by former Welsh international coach John Toshack, equalised in the 69th minute through Smillion pound (\$7.5million) Brazilian striker Rivaldo.

While Rivaldo's goal lifted him to top of the goalscoring charts with four goals, Madar, signed from Monaco, scored his first for the club with a header from former Spanish international Martin Vasquez's cross.

Coruna's reign could be cut short if Barcelona beat Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Athletic Bilbao's coach Luis Fernandez, the former Paris Saint Germain coach, found the pressure eased on him somewhat as his side won 2-1 away at racing Santander.

Bilbao strikers Ismael Urzaiz and Jose Angel Ziganda scored after Santander's Russian international striker Vladimir Bestchastnik had given his side a 22nd minute lead.

Newly promoted Extremadura suffered their fifth defeat in five league matches, beaten 5-1 by Espanyol.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANWAH HIRSH

EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A K 10 6 3
♣ 6 5

EAST
♠ K J 10 9 4 2
♥ 10 6 5 3 2
♦ Q
♣ 8

WEST
♠ 6 5 2
♥ Q J
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A 7
♥ 9
♦ J 8 2
♣ A K J 10 7 4 2

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
12 Pass 3NT Pass
3 Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠.
Minor lapses of technique are not usually punished drastically. That was not the case on this hand from the Forbo tournament played earlier this year in Holland.
At one table North-South reached an iron-clad contract of five clubs. Declarer made 12 tricks easily by ruffing a spade in dummy, losing only one trick to the queen of clubs.

At the other table, North-South stumbled into three no trump on the bidding shown after East made a weak jump overall in spades.
West led a low spade and declarer won the ace. Which minor suit should South tackle first?
Declarer chose to go after the nine-card club suit rather than the combined eight cards in diamonds. When the queen of clubs failed to drop under the ace-king, declarer took the percentage play in diamonds by running the eight since there was no entry back to the closed hand. East won the queen and the defenders collected five spade tricks and a club for a three-trick set.
Going after clubs was correct, but declarer should have taken one preliminary precaution. Before cashing the high clubs, declarer should have played off one high diamond. When the queen drops, declarer simply cashes winning tricks and racks up 10 tricks.
If the queen of diamonds does not drop, declarer then tests clubs. When that lady fails to appear, declarer can fall back on the diamond finesse in an attempt to land the game.

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IAAF to set rigid rules regarding unsponsored events

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain (AFP) — The president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation Primo Nebiolo on Saturday said the IAAF would from 1997 disqualify athletes taking part in races not sponsored by the world athletics body.

Nebiolo spoke out after many of the world's top road runners decided not to attend Sunday's world half-marathon in Majorca, marking a growing trend.

"Disqualification will go through without consideration of (the athletes') name or record, be they Olympic champions or students," Nebiolo warned.

He went on: "From next year we will protect our events much more strongly. This is the last time there will be competitions on the same day as an IAAF world championship."

"We ... will disqualify any athletes taking part in other events. We can do what we want because we are the governing body," Nebiolo said.

Among major names missing from the Majorca start list are Kenya's Paul Tergat and compatriot Sammy Lelei, who is set to run in the Berlin Marathon instead.

Seles and Davenport give U.S. Fed Cup lead

ATLANTIC CITY (AFP) — World co-number one Monica Seles and Lindsay Davenport won straight-set triumphs here Saturday, putting the United States on the verge of taking the Fed Cup from Spain.

Seles downed Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-4, and Lindsay Davenport defeated Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 7-5, 6-1, to give the U.S. team a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five women's tennis team championship.

"I couldn't ask for more from Monica," U.S. captain Billie Jean King said. "Call her 'no nonsense.' She is totally focused, totally driven. Champions are driven. She is consistently intense every day in practice."

Spain won the past three Fed Cup crowns, beating the U.S. team in the past two finals. U.S. women have won 14 titles in the cup's 33-year history, but none since 1990 and never under the present Davis Cup-style format.

Seles can win for the U.S. team if she beats Sanchez in Sunday's first match. She has won 12 of 13 career meetings with the Spaniard. Davenport and Martinez play next, followed by a doubles match pitting Martinez and Sanchez against Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez.

Seles swept her first four service games at love to control the opening set, then rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win in 85 minutes. "To start against a player like Monica is very hard," Martinez said. "It took me a



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain sits stunned with Spain's team captain Miguel Margets, between games of the 2nd set of her upset loss to Lindsey Davenport of the USA in the second singles match of the Fed Cup finals in Atlantic City, New Jersey (Reuters photo)

little time to get used to her. I was very close and I had a lot of opportunities."

Martinez moved ahead 3-1 in the second set before Seles broke back to even the set at 3-3. Seles broke Martinez again in the final game to win.

"I probably had a strategy, but I was so nervous, especially in the second set," said Seles, who beat Martinez in the U.S. Open semi-final. "Losing the first game of the second set unnerved me and she just kept coming at me. The key was when I broke her back."

Davenport fell behind early, but rallied to take 10 of the final 11 games, overpowering Sanchez and finishing her off with an ace.

"I would rank this victory as one of the top matches of

my career," Davenport said. "I turned it around. I haven't done that too much in the past. I'm a pretty shaky player. I was able to play well in 10 out of the last 11 games."

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815616	858626	817617	858698
815617	858634	819104	858704
815618	858643	819105	858715
815619	858654	819106	858725
815620	858667	819107	858734
817615	858675	819108	858743

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Director General
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U.N. envoy meets Taleban leaders

Women do not work, girls' schools closed under orders

KABUL (Agencies) — U.N. envoy discussed Afghanistan's future with the Taleban militiamen who took over the battered capital, where women heading clerics' calls stayed indoors Sunday and girls' schools remained closed.

Norbert Holl, the United Nations special envoy to Afghanistan, said he would like to continue talks with the warring groups and work towards a reconciliation.

"The U.N. wants to continue political dialogue and cooperation," said Mr. Holl, who met a senior Islamic leader after his arrival in Kabul Sunday to a Taleban honour guard.

He did not disclose details of his discussions, but said he had received no apology for Taleban's execution of former President Najibullah, who had been under U.N. protection for four years.

Meanwhile, northern Afghan militia commander General Abdul Rashid Dostum withheld recognition of the Taleban movement's new administration in Kabul.

"We do not recognise them (Taleban)," Mohammad Yousef, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum's Jumbish-e-Milli faction, told Reuters in an interview. "If they want to form a government, they must ask for our counsel."

Gen. Dostum's forces control several northern provinces but have largely stayed out of the confrontation between ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government and the Taleban.

Gen. Dostum himself, an ethnic Uzbek, has so far kept silent on events in Kabul. A Jumbish official said he would make a statement on Monday.

But the Taleban's capture of Kabul has placed the wily general, usually adept at playing off Afghanistan's warring factions against each other to his own advantage, in a precarious position.

Mr. Holl was received by Taleban's chief of protocol, Mullah Hafizullah, and driven to the rocket-damaged presidential palace where the new Islamic administration has been headquartered since overrunning the capital Friday.

He drove past the traffic post where the body of ex-President Najibullah had hung just a day earlier. Then he met with the senior Taleban leader, Mullah Mohammed Rabbani.

Mr. Holl acknowledged that women's rights was among the topics discussed. Those rights may be endangered because of the Taleban's strict interpretation of Islamic law. "This is an issue, it was an issue, and it will remain an issue," he said. "Projects have been already interrupted because of the issue of women's rights," he said.

However, he refused to say what specific steps the U.N. was prepared to take to ensure that women's rights were protected.

Girls' schools were closed for a second day Sunday, and women workers of several U.N. offices refused to come to work.

The capital has been relatively peaceful since the Taleban took control, and fighting against the ousted government north of the city has tapered off.

The Taleban's decree against education and jobs for women is based on a strict reading of Islamic law that women should remain chaste, and on the tribal customs of Afghanistan.

Many frightened female workers stayed home after clerics announced on loudspeakers atop Kabul's mosques that women should remain indoors and that those venturing outside should wear traditional Islamic dress that covers them from head to foot.

Several international aid organisations say they may not be able to function if their women employees do not turn up for work.

Within hours of entering the city, Taleban fighters dragged Najibullah, his brother Shahpur Ahmedzai, and two other aides from the U.N. compound in the heart of Kabul, where they had been in hiding since April 1992.

All were executed. The battered corpses of Najibullah and Ahmedzai were left hanging from a traffic post outside the presidential palace until late Saturday.



HOME DESTROYED: An Israeli tank guards an Israeli bulldozer that is demolishing a Palestinian house on the Palestinian-Egyptian border on Sunday. Israel accused the Palestinians of using the house to shoot from at Israeli soldiers (Reuters photo)

U.N. inspector arrives in Iraq on new mission

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior United Nations weapons inspector arrived in Iraq on Sunday for talks with Iraqi officials on efforts to eliminate Baghdad's biological and chemical weapons.

Charles Duelfer, deputy chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, said the commission still faced obstacles in talks with Baghdad.

"We continue to have problems with the resolution of the past programmes, and that has been the focus of our work for the past several months now," Mr. Duelfer told reporters.

In June Iraq blocked U.N. access to Republican or Presidential guard sites that Iraq said were sensitive for its own security and sovereignty.

UNSCOM's head Rolf Ekens later reached agreement with Iraqi authorities for unconditional access for

U.N. weapons inspectors but said he believed Iraq was still concealing banned arms.

Mr. Duelfer said he planned an "overall discussion of the relationship between the commission and the government of Iraq," ahead of UNSCOM's report to the U.N. Security Council early next month.

"We have just finished a series of inspections. We will reflect on those and then make our plans accordingly," he said. "This is not part of an inspection."

Mr. Duelfer said he would meet general Amer Al-Saadi, adviser at the presidential office and Oil Minister Amer Rasheed, former head of Iraq's military industrialisation commission.

A clean bill of health by UNSCOM is key to lifting the ban on Iraqi oil exports imposed in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait. UNSCOM activities are not linked to the stalled oil-for-food deal which would allow Iraq to export \$2 billion of oil to buy food and medicine.

Many Israelis say Netanyahu wrong

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A knock at the door brought Israel's new battles with the Palestinians home to residents of one Israeli community bordering the West Bank.

Police snipers asked if they could climb onto the roofs of private homes for a better view of a Palestinian village just across the frontier where shots had been heard, a resident said on Sunday, asking that the name of the town not be disclosed.

"People wouldn't agree," he said. The community voted overwhelmingly for Shimon Peres in Israel's election last May won by right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Although the ballot showed the country politically divided, interviews with several Israelis since the new violence erupted pointed to agreement on one thing: Mr. Netanyahu erred in opening a tunnel near Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

"When the Egyptians say he needs a psychiatrist, they're right," said Yoram Hacker, a computer specialist from Yavne, near Tel Aviv. "It was a display of stupidity and muscle-flexing."

Amiram Barit, a factory owner from Maccabim, midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, voted for Mr. Netanyahu but said the prime minister perhaps had not acted wisely in the current crisis.

However, he said the Likud Party leader should not bear all the blame.

"It's possible Mr. Netanyahu made a mistake by opening the tunnel but the person who made a greater mistake was Shimon Peres, who gave the Palestinian police guns," Mr. Barit said.

Palestinian police were at the forefront of clashes with Israeli soldiers last week before being ordered to keep protesters away from Israeli positions.

The sight of the Palestinian

policemen, many of whom had participated in joint patrols with Israeli soldiers under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deals, shocked Israeli television viewers and drew condemnation from all of those interviewed.

"It was insensitive and stemmed from political inexperience," Benny Weiss, a computer executive from Tel Aviv said about Mr. Netanyahu's tunnel-opening.

"But there can be no excuses for shooting at our soldiers," Mr. Weiss, who described himself as a former right-winger who turned to the left, said he believed it would take U.S. pressure to put the peace process back on track.

U.S. President Bill Clinton announced on Sunday he had invited Mr. Netanyahu, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, King Hussein and Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak to a White House summit early in the week.

"They will have to erase many things from a very fresh memory," Mr. Weiss said.

Mr. Barit said there must be no Israeli "surrender."

"You can't surrender to every punk in the street. You have to flex your muscles — tanks, helicopters — there's no problem doing that," he said.

Meanwhile, Jackie Yeger, a tourist guide from Maccabim, will be avoiding confrontation by driving the long way to Jerusalem — shunning a shortcut through the West Bank strewn with rocks thrown by Palestinians at Israeli cars.

"I blame the government because of all its foot-dragging," he said, expressing fears for his livelihood.

"People abroad who see these things on television won't come here," Mr. Yeger said.

He said he had often taken his tour groups to Jerusalem's Mount of Olives which overlooks the Haram Al Sharif.

94 nations sign CTBT at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Ninety-two nations signed the landmark nuclear test ban treaty in the first four days it was open for signature last week, according to United Nations documents released over the weekend.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, followed by the declared nuclear powers Russia, France, Britain and China, on Tuesday opened the signing ceremonies on the treaty to end all nuclear explosions.

But the treaty requires 44 nations with nuclear power to ratify it through their national legislatures before it goes into force. India, whose signature is necessary, has vowed never to sign "this unequal treaty, not now, not later" until the atomic powers devise a timetable for destroying their nuclear arsenals.

Nevertheless, Mr. Clinton said that signatures of nations on the pact was tantamount to a ban on testing "even before the treaty formally enters into force."

So far, 37 countries among the required 44 states signed the treaty last week at U.N. headquarters.

They include, in addition to the five nuclear powers, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Vietnam.

Among the 44 who have not yet signed, aside from India, are Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, North Korea, Slovakia, Zaire and Pakistan, which has said it would not agree to the pact until India does so.

The treaty requires a conference in three to four years for members to decide how to accelerate the ratification process should India and others still refuse to join the pact.

Mr. Clinton, if reelected, was expected to ask the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty early in 1997, a U.S. official said. But the United States will not deposit the ratification papers until all the nuclear powers as well as those suspected of having or close to having a bomb — India, Pakistan and Israel — are ready to do so.

India had also objected strongly to making its ratification a condition of the treaty's entering into force. The United States at first agreed but then gave in to pressure from Britain, Russia and China during negotiations in Geneva.

Arms experts believe this has put a focus on India, which has tested but not deployed a bomb, rather than on the stockpiles of the nuclear powers.

Currently, the United States and Russia each deploy more than 7,000 warheads, France 512, Britain 464 and China 284.

The new treaty bans all explosions, including underground blasts. A 1963 treaty barred explosions in the atmosphere and another one in 1974 set a size limit on underground tests.

All five declared nuclear weapons states have imposed voluntary moratoriums on testing. The United States, Russia and Britain stopped testing between 1990 and 1992, while France and China ended blasts several months ago.

TOILET PAPER THEFT

lands man
40-year sentence

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Stealing 22 rolls of toilet paper has landed a homeless man 40 years in state prison after a judge threw the book at him for adding to a lifetime of prior arrests.

Dade Circuit Judge Lauren Levy Miller handed the sentence Friday to Henry Stepney, 42, under a state criminal act which stiffens penalties for repeat offenders with at least three convictions for violent crimes — anything from burglary to murder.

Mr. Stepney, who had 51 prior arrests, qualified for the punishment on May 15 after he went into a waste management yard in Miami and tried to steal 22 rolls of toilet paper worth less than \$22.

"I needed the money," he said. "Every day that he is free, this defendant is stealing from hard-working people," Dade prosecutor Peter Walsh told the judge. "We want mercy — for the people of Florida." Dade assistant public defender Robert Coppel asked the judge for leniency. He said that Mr. Stepney has a drug problem and needed treatment, not prison. The judge decided his fate after a 26-minute pause. "I'm not sentencing Stepney for this crime alone, but for his past 20 years," Judge Miller said.

Spanish, Irish films get top award

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AFP) — Bwana, a film by Imanol Uribe of Spain, and the Irish film Trojan Eddie by Gillies MacKinnon were jointly given the Golden Conch, the top prize of the San Sebastian Film Festival, Saturday, jury members announced.

Britain's Michael Caine won the Silver Conch for best actor in Bob Rafelson's Blood and Wine.

Argentina's Norma Aleandro was named best actress for Sol De Otono by Eduardo Mignogna.

Francisco Lombardi of Peru was given the Silver Conch for best director of Bajo La Piel. Engelen by German Helke Misselwitz won the festival jury's Special Prize.

British director Mike Figgis and Portuguese actress Maria De Medeiros were booted by members of the Spanish press when they read out the names of the festival winners as journalists had favoured Capitaine Conan by Frenchman Gy-Claude Francois and El Ultimo Viaje De Robert Rylands by young Spanish director Gracia Querejeta.

Germany's 'super stud' bull is no more

MUENSTER, Germany (AFP) — Germany's most potent bull, from whose fertile loins sprang more than half a million doses of sperm, is no more.

A spokesman for the Westphalia and Lippe Chamber of Agriculture has announced. The 10-year-old bull, named Bell, was put to sleep at the artificial insemination centre of Huendenberg, near Paderborn, because of advanced arthritis.

The spokesman said that Bell had offspring in many parts of the world and was the first European bull whose semen was exported to North America. The 15-year-old black and white mother Betina, for many years milk-production record holder in her class, is still alive and living in Bremerhaven.

New UAE deadline for departure eases pressure on illegal workers

DUBAI (R) — Pressure eased on Sunday at embassies and airlines in the United Arab Emirates following a decision to extend a deadline for an estimated 200,000 illegal immigrants to legalise their stay or leave, diplomats said.

Long queues still formed at embassies and airports of people trying to obtain exit permits or board congested flights mainly to India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The diplomats said Saturday's extension of a Sept. 30 amnesty until Oct. 31 for illegal immigrant workers would ensure that all illegal workers

leave the country.

"The amnesty eased the pressure. We really needed the extension due to the congestion on bookings. Now we think all those having to leave will do so by the end of October," said Joseph Angeles, the Philippines embassy charge d'affaires.

Thousands of workers have been scrambling to leave by plane and boat to avoid tough new penalties when the amnesty expires and a new law cracking down on illegal labour takes effect.

Airlines said they were unable to cope with the mass exodus despite introducing extra flights and diplomats had feared thousands would be

stranded in the UAE after Oct. 1.

Many of the immigrants complained the amnesty period was too short and did not give them enough time to prepare for the voyage, purchase tickets and collect outstanding wages.

The embassies said the Interior Ministry made it clear that the new deadline would not be extended further.

The government says the law will curb the growing number of illegal aliens, who it says are a security threat to the UAE.

"People are less tense now and the extension will help them arrange transport and not be stranded here," said K.V. Shankar, secretary general of

the privately-funded Indian association.

He said the association has arranged for two ships to ferry 3,300 Indians to Bombay. One will leave on Monday with 1,200 people and another on Tuesday with 2,100 people.

Air India officials said the airline carried almost 19,000 Indian amnesty passengers home in the past week.

Jamal Sanad Al Suwaidi, secretary-general of the committee for the demographic structure of the UAE which is in charge of the amnesty, told Reuters television on Saturday he expected some 140,000 illegal workers to leave the country.

Diplomats had expected some 200,000 illegal aliens to leave the country, but embassies said they had issued about 100,000 exit permits so far and thought the rush for permits was easing.

Now that the deadline has been extended, diplomats said some people might try to legalise their stay in the UAE.

"But we think the majority want to leave," one said.

Foreigners make up 75 per cent of the population in the UAE, where many work as labourers, housemaids or in the service sector. Diplomats say most come to the country legally with a work permit stipulating they have to work for their sponsor.

Many break the law by over-

staying or absconding from their sponsors for better treatment or pay with other employers.

The new law has disrupted the day-to-day lives of residents, including working mothers who have lost their part-time maids, as well as small businesses who rely on part-time workers.

"We advise the working women to either quit their work and look after their children or send them to daycare centres," the Khaleej Times newspaper on Sunday quoted a senior official at the federal immigration department as saying.